



Seedlings for Schools

Gardens connecting people and wildlife together

Bee & Butterfly Box

Flora of Hume



Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, which includes the Gunung Willam Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and to Elders past, present and future.

For your information

If you would like help to identify native plants or find out about how you can help protect and enhance native vegetation, contact the Sustainability Engagement team on 9205 2200.

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Hume City Council is an
affiliate of the
Gardens for Wildlife
Victoria Network





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Hume City Council donates indigenous seedlings to schools to beautify the school grounds, create outdoor classrooms, provide more shade, and enhance the habitat for local wildlife. Children are provided with opportunities to connect with nature, work as a team on a worthwhile project, and learn about the local environment.

Seedlings for Schools

Since 2014, over 55,000 seedlings have been given to schools in Hume City. More than 80 percent of schools have been involved at least once, with several schools applying each year.

Indigenous Plants

Indigenous species of flora are adapted to the region's soils and climatic conditions. These local plants are well-suited to growing in clay soils and can cope with hot, dry summers.

Historically, Hume City was once covered by native grasslands and open grassy woodlands. Many indigenous plants therefore prefer to be in positions with full sun to part shade, and will not grow as well in full shade conditions.

Australia's unique fauna evolved with local native plants, so rely on them for food and shelter. By planting indigenous species in our gardens, parks, streetscapes, and at schools, we provide much-needed wildlife habitat and ecological connectivity for biodiversity gains.

We can also grow plants important to First Nations Peoples, as numerous species are used for food, fibre, medicine and tools, or have other cultural heritage values.

Flora Conservation Status

Much of the native vegetation has been cleared across Hume City, due to farming and urban development. As new suburbs are built, Nature Conservation Reserves are set aside to protect native vegetation, with over 100 sites managed by Council.

Flora surveys conducted in the reserves have recorded some 990 plant species, including exotics (non-native species). More than 210 indigenous species are at risk of regional extinction with only one to five wild populations left in Hume City.

Conserve rare and threatened indigenous plants by including them in our gardens.

It is illegal to take indigenous plants from the wild, without a permit from the state government and permission from the land owner/manager. A limit must be placed on harvesting seed and propagation materials from vulnerable wild populations. Instead we can use seeds or cuttings collected from our gardens to grow more plants, and hopefully share them with other people.

Bee and Butterfly Box

This is only a small selection of flora species known to attract a range of native pollinators, either by providing nectar and pollen, or as host food plants for caterpillars. There are many more beautiful plants that provide habitat for native bees and butterflies.

Native bees are attracted to blue flowers, and require an ample supply of flowering plants from spring to autumn. Install bee hotels where the brood young can develop over winter, using either bundles of pithy/hollowed stems, drilled holes into timber, or poke starter tunnels in clay/mud-bricks. It is safe to try to support native bees at your school as they do not have a stinger and are unlikely to sting children.

Butterflies also benefit from having lots of flowering plants, such as mass plantings of daisies and peas, while native grasses feed numerous species of caterpillars. Have some sunny spots or rocks for the adult butterflies to bask on as they need to warm up to fly. We also need to be tolerant of caterpillars munching and leaving holes in leaves, and reduce our use of pesticides.

Flora of Hume

The following plant factsheets are grouped by form or growth habit. Each botanical name is linked to the [Flora of Victoria](#) website for more information. [Learn to identify](#) these plants, consider how big they grow and where to plant them, plus how to collect their seed, and maintain them in your garden.

Planting tips & caring for the seedlings



Follow these tips for a great planting technique, giving the seedlings the best chance to survive and grow.

Water your seedlings well or soak the forestry tubes in a bucket before planting

Watering will help get the seedling out of the tube, and keep the root ball and soil together.

Dig a “Goldilocks” hole

Check the hole is deep enough, and not too deep, by putting the plastic forestry tube in the hole. The top of the potting mix in the tube should be level with the surrounding ground. Avoid having the seedling sit too high up with roots exposed, or too low down with stem smothered.

Breathe on your seedling

Sing or talk to your seedlings. They will absorb the carbon dioxide you breathe out.

All plants photosynthesize. They combine water and carbon dioxide to make simple sugars and release oxygen. The carbon from your body is used by the seedling to grow.

What was part of you is now part of the seedling; you are connected on an atomic level!

Massage your seedling in the forestry tube

Firmly squeeze the opposite corners of the square forestry tube together. Squeeze at the bottom and at top of the tube. Squeeze the other corners and all the sides of the tube too.

Gently remove your seedling from the forestry tube

Make a V with two fingers. Place a finger either side of the seedling. Then tip the forestry tube upside down and give a firm, hard shake. The seedling's roots in the potting soil should slide out of the tube into the palm of your hand. Try to keep this root ball in the soil intact.

If the seedling doesn't easily come out, check if there are roots growing out the bottom of the tube. Tear these roots off the bottom if you need to.

Massage the corners of the tube firmly again. Try more hard shakes to get the seedling out.

Or lightly grasp the seedling stem between your two fingers and gently pull on the seedling as your other hand squeezes the corners of the tube. Gently wriggle the seedling out.

Tuck your seedling into the hole

Push loose dirt into any gaps around the seedling and fill up the hole. Make sure all the roots are covered up. Mound up some dirt in a ring around the seedling.

Water your seedling

Water gently so the dirt doesn't get washed away from the roots. The mounded ring of dirt can help dam the water. Let the water soak in slowly to help settle the dirt in around the roots.

Mulch your seedlings

Cover the ground with mulch to help retain soil moisture, reduce weeds and feed the soil. Use a bark chip or leaf litter bush mulch up to 10 centimetres thick around woody plants like trees and shrubs. For more delicate wildflowers and grasses, mulch with sugar cane or straw.

Care for your seedlings

Water your newly planted seedlings a couple of times a week for the first month at least.

Remove any weeds that grow near them. Prune the plants after they finish flowering.

Feed the plants with a liquid fertiliser, slow release fertiliser pellets formulated for natives, or add a ring of compost or weathered manures around the seedling.

Symbols & Gardens for Wildlife recipe



Form or growth habit



Trees



Shrubs



Wildflowers



Grasses



Herbs



Sedges



Groundcover



Climbers

Amount of light required



Full Sun



Part Shade



Full Shade

Wildlife attracted



Birds



Butterflies



Bees



Frogs



Lizards



Mammals



The Gardens for Wildlife program has a simple recipe of ingredients to create a wildlife-friendly garden:

- Layer plants using various forms or growth habits as upper, mid and ground-storey.
- Include a native canopy tree, plus prickly or dense shrubs for small birds to shelter in.
- Blue-flowering plants for native bees; daisies for adult butterflies; grasses for caterpillars.
- Use a diversity of plant species, with long flowering periods or that flower at different times of the year, followed by seeds or fruits as other food sources.
- Have multiples of the same plant species to increase the resources available.
- Provide sources of water like a bird bath, fish pond, frog bog, or saucers on the ground.
- Install habitat features such as bee hotels, lizard lounges, or nest boxes for extra shelter and sites for wildlife to rear their young.
- Mulch garden beds to attract soil-foraging insects, as the basis of a healthy food web.
- Consider having other sustainability features such as compost bins, worm farms, rainwater tanks, productive food gardens, fruit trees, chickens, and/or solar panels.
- Be a responsible pet owner and keep cats contained indoors or in a cat-run.



Hop Goodenia

Goodenia ovata

Identification

This attractive medium shrub can be round, bushy or open in form, with sticky scrambling branches. Has broad, roundish, shiny leaves with notched margins. Carries a profusion of bright yellow flowers to one centimetre wide with five distinct lobes.

Status in Hume City

Widespread on escarpments and plains, along streamsides, and near wetlands. A small remnant remains at the Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve, while it would have been found all along Jackson's Creek in Sunbury. Common in revegetation sites and occurs in over 20 Nature Conservation Reserves.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flowering | • | • | • | | | | | • | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | | | | | | • | • | • | • | • | • |



Size

High: 1 metre - 2 metre
Wide: 1 metre - 2 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

A medicinal tea made from the leaves and twigs is thought to have anti-diabetic properties.

Planting Advice

- Use in rock gardens, frog bogs, and under trees.
- Provides cut flowers and is long-flowering with a flush in spring.
- Food for caterpillars, other insects, and attracts birds who feed on these insects.
- Successful coloniser after disturbance like fire and is fast growing.
- Prune the tips periodically to encourage dense growth as may become straggly. Can be pruned hard and suckers easily.
- Tolerant of both drought and water-logging, but prefers moist, well-drained soils in a sheltered position.
- Is sensitive to frost and may be short-lived in gardens.



Rosemary Grevillea

Grevillea rosmarinifolia

Identification

A dense, rounded, perennial shrub with a variable growth habit, as there are several local forms. Also widely cultivated, where cultivars may vary slightly to indigenous specimens. Has stiff, prickly, narrow leaves and bears clusters of curved, pink and cream, tubular flowers throughout the bush.

Status in Hume City

Naturally found on stony knolls and in escarpment shrublands. Is rare, though occurs in the grasslands of Kalkallo and near Moonee Ponds Creek. Planted in several Nature Conservation Reserves.

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| Flowering | | | | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Seed Collection | • | • | | | | | • | • | • | • | • | • |



Size

High: 0.3 metre - 2 metre
Wide: 0.3 metre - 1.5 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses.

Planting Advice

- Great hedging species that provides screening.
- Dense and prickly foliage is excellent habitat for small birds. Flowers attract nectar-feeding birds.
- Attracts butterflies and is a food plant for caterpillars. Provides cover and shelter for other wildlife.
- Long flowering period for most of the year, peaking in winter and spring. Prune back after flowering to promote dense growth.
- Caution: Note that the prickly foliage can irritate some people's skin.
- Propagate from cuttings (hard tips), as purity of species is mixed from seed. Seed scarification required to propagate from seed.
- Drought tolerant and frost tolerant.
- Prefers well-drained soils.



Chocolate Lily

Arthropodium strictum

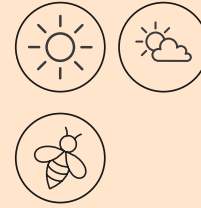
Identification

An erect perennial wildflower that regrows from underground tubers with narrow, grass-like leaves forming a rosette. Purple-pink flowers mature up the long flowering stalks in spring, and the flowers smell like chocolate. Green seed capsules then ripen up the stalks, with the black, hard-coated seeds ready to be collected over summer when the seed capsules turn brown and start to split open.

Status in Hume City

Occurs in native grasslands and grassy woodlands in open areas and usually grows in small colonies. Widespread and growing in over 30 Nature Conservations Reserves.

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| Flowering | | | | | | | | | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | | | | | | | • | • | • | |



Size

High: 20 centimetre - 1 metre
Wide: 20 - 50 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

The carrot-shaped tuber can be eaten raw or roasted. However, it is tastier when roasted and is best harvested after the foliage has died back in summer.

Planting Advice

- Pretty, small plant for small places, planted outside the drip-line of trees, or in pots.
- Visually striking when mass planted but can be crowded out by larger plants, so use in a more open position or garden-bed edges.
- Best propagated by seed.
- Susceptible to damage by snails and slugs.
- Prefers well-drained soils. Extend the flowering period by maintaining moist soils over summer.
- Drought tolerant but leaves may die back to tuber. Will reshoot with autumn rains.
- Frost tolerant.



Cut-leaf Daisy
Brachyscome multifida

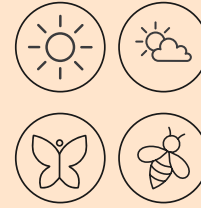
Identification

This compact, perennial daisy will spread out by underground runners and has soft, divided, dark green leaves. Flowers for most of year, peaking in spring with the classic yellow-centred daisy flowers, up to two centimetres wide. Most cultivars are lilac-coloured but the flowers can range from white, pink, mauve to blue. Brownish oval-shaped seeds in the seed capsule can be pinched off when mature.

Status in Hume City

While occurring in herb-rich woodlands, this species is no longer present in the wild in any of Hume’s Nature Conservation Reserves. However, it is a popular horticultural plant in many garden settings.

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| Flowering | • | • | • | • | • | | | | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | • | • | • | • | | | | • | • | • |



Size

High: 20 - 30 centimetre
Wide: 20 centimetre - 1 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses.

Planting Advice

- Gorgeous, long-flowering, low-growing wildflower, that is an absolute native bee and butterfly magnet.
- Use in rock gardens, pots or hanging baskets and performs well as a low edging plant *en masse*.
- Contrasts well with grey foliaged wildflowers like *Calocephalus citreus*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* or *Pycnosorus globosus*. Also include native grasses as caterpillar host food plants.
- An indigenous alternative to using Seaside Daisy.
- Will reshoot after hard pruning. Can propagate from cuttings.
- Use as a soil binder to reduce soil erosion.
- Adapts to most soils, but prefers moist, well-drained, sedimentary soils.



Basalt Swamp-daisy

Brachyscome paludicola (Syn *B. basaltica*)

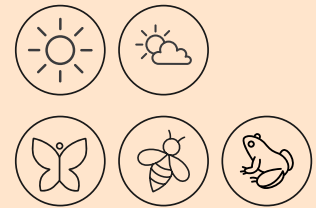
Identification

A small, upright, perennial herb, with narrow light-green leaves that are up to nine centimetres long and arranged on erect slender stems. White daisy flowers with yellow centres appear in profusion over spring and summer. Seeds (achenes) are oval-shaped and stay clustered together, so can be easily collected when they start to come loose from the fruiting body.

Status in Hume City

Formerly found in grassy wetlands, including in gilgai (i.e., a shallow depression in clay soils), along drainage lines, and around the sides of swamps. At high risk of becoming regionally extinct in the wild as only recorded in one Nature Conservation Reserve in Sunbury.

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| Seed Collection | • | • | • | • | | | | | | • | • | • |



Size

High: 20 - 60 centimetre
Wide: 20 - 40 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses.

Planting Advice

- A pretty wildflower to use around garden ponds, rain gardens, frog bogs, low spots or naturally wet areas with poor drainage.
- Mass plant to form low borders or pretty drifts as flowers prolifically. Can self-seed and will also form suckers.
- An indigenous alternative to use instead of Seaside Daisy.
- A wide variety of butterflies, native bees, hover flies, and other pollinators are attracted to the compound cluster of tiny flowers that make up the yellow centre.
- Prune back to the ground after it finishes setting seed, with new shoots appearing from the base in autumn.
- Prefers moist soils and is not suitable for permanently dry soils.



Common Everlasting Daisy

Chrysocephalum apiculatum

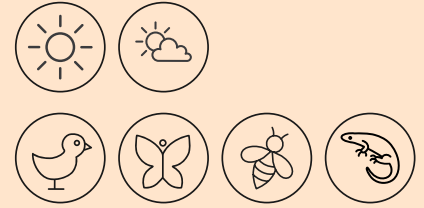
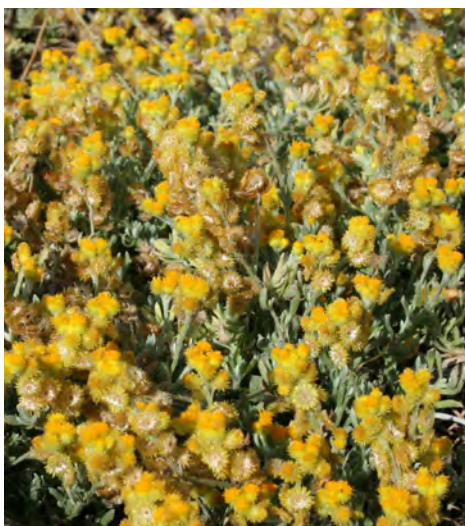
Identification

A perennial wildflower that is quite variable in form. Can be a dense spreading (prostrate) groundcover to an erect small shrub, with different sized leaves and flowers. It generally has grey-green, hairy leaves and bears bright-yellow clusters of daisy flowers on the ends of short stems. Ripe seed appears like fluff on the old flowerheads and when collecting, it will come away with a light brush of a finger.

Status in Hume City

Still common and widespread as occurs in various vegetation types, including grasslands, woodlands, and forests. Is located in over 20 Nature Conservation Reserves and can be found in Broadmeadows Valley Park, Sunbury, and Wildwood.

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| Flowering | • | • | | | | | | | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | • | | | | | | | | • | • |



Size

High: 10 - 30 centimetre
Wide: 50 centimetre - 1 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses.

Planting Advice

- Great anywhere in the garden including pots, borders, rockeries and under trees. A popular indigenous plant with landscapers.
- Provides cut flowers for floral arrangements.
- Has a long-flowering period, and removing old flower heads will encourage more flowering and denser growth.
- Attracts butterflies, insects, and insect-eating birds, lizards and frogs. Provides shelter and cover for wildlife.
- Can be propagated by seed or cuttings.
- Drought and frost tolerant.
- Prefers well-drained soils.



Blue Devil, Eryngo
Eryngium ovinum

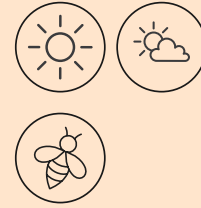
Identification

Stiff, narrow, spined-tipped leaves emerge from this perennial herb's tuberous roots after autumn rain. The branched flowering stems carry globular, spiked flowers that all turn a bright steely-blue as matures over spring into summer. The dried seed heads on the branches tumble off in the wind to disperse. Spiky heads can also attach to passing animals, like sheep, where farmers despaired how it fouled their wool clip; hence the common name.

Status in Hume City

Widespread and still relatively common on basalt clay soils, as part of the plains grasslands. Found in over 20 reserves in Hume City.

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| Flowering | • | • | | | | | | | | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | • | • | | | | | | | | • |



Size

High: 10 - 60 centimetre
Wide: 50 centimetre - 1 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

The thick starchy tap root is roasted and eaten. The root can also make a delicious mash.

Planting Advice

- Fast-growing, hardy, and striking ornamental plant suitable for rockeries and containers.
- Propagate from seed, and be careful of the very spiky flowers when collecting dried flowerheads and processing the seed.
- Native bees are attracted to its blue flowers.
- Drought tolerant but leaves may die back to tuber. Plants will reshoot in autumn.
- Frost tolerant.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils and is well-adapted to clay soils.



Austral Stork's-bill

Pelargonium australe

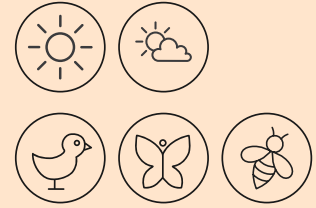
Identification

A dense, spreading, perennial herb with large, rounded, velvety, hairy leaves and wavy leaf margins. Develops clusters of white to pink flowers, with distinctive purplish veins in the centre. A hairy corkscrew awn helps disperse the seed in the wind.

Status in Hume City

Found in rocky outcrops in grasslands and riparian areas along waterways and in moist depressions. From recent botanical surveys, it is recorded in over ten Nature Conservation Reserves and is often included in revegetation projects across Hume City.

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| Flowering | • | • | • | • | • | | | | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | • | • | • | | | | • | • | • | • |



Size

High: 30 - 60 centimetre
Wide: 30 - 60 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Fleshy red taproot is an Aboriginal food.

Planting Advice

- Grows very well in rock gardens, as a groundcover and in pots. Very hardy.
- Attractive aromatic leaves, is fast-growing, long-flowering and spreads readily by seed. Can also propagate with cuttings.
- Attracts butterflies, bees and insect-eating birds.
- May die back to rootstock in dry weather but will reshoot after autumn rains.
- Prune back all dead flower stalks and leaves in autumn and apply a small amount of native plant fertiliser to encourage new growth.
- Drought tolerant once established. Frost tolerant.
- Adapted to grow in range of soils, from heavy clay to sandy soils.
- Tolerant of dry-shady conditions.



Basalt Podolepis
Podolepis linearifolia

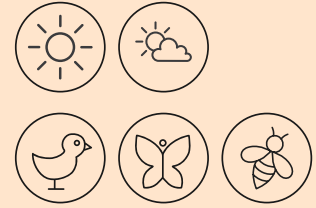
Identification

A perennial wildflower with unbranched stems and slender dark green leaves, that rise from a basal rosette. Nodding flower buds form on bent coppery stems, which straighten as they mature. Has large, bright yellow composite flowerheads surrounded by two outer rows of yellow bracts. The outer seeds of the fluffy white seedhead mature before the centre seeds and are wind dispersed.

Status in Hume City

Once occurred in wetter areas of grasslands and grassy woodlands, but is now Endangered in Victoria. Considered to be regionally extinct in Hume City, as no remnant wild populations exist.

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| Flowering | | • | • | | | | | | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | | • | • | • | • | | | | | | • | • |



Size

High: 30 - 60 centimetre
Wide: 20 - 30 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

The tuber of this plant can be eaten when cooked, with a similar appearance to parsnip.

Planting Advice

- A spectacular ornamental wildflower that can be grown in rockeries and containers. Looks best as an edging border or when planted **en masse**.
- Attracts native bees, butterflies and other insects, as well as insect-eating birds.
- Will reshoot from its base and flower again if watered in late summer. Prune back the stems of the finished flower heads in autumn.
- Easy to propagate from seed. May be short-lived in cultivation, so it is a good idea to collect some seed each summer and store in a paper bag or envelope.
- Prefers moist, well-drained basalt (clay) soils.



Golden Billy-buttons

Pycnosorus chrysanthus

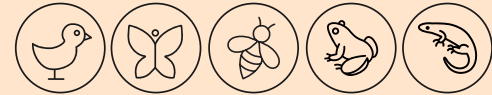
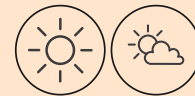
Identification

An erect to low spreading daisy shrub with numerous white-green woolly stems sprouting from the base and narrow, grey-green leaves. Born on the end of each stem are single, round, golden, compound flowerheads, actually composed of 50-100 tiny flowers. Seed is mature when it comes loosely away and the tiny seeds have feathery bristles to aid in wind dispersal.

Status in Hume City

Occurs in plains grasslands and plains grassy wetlands. Recorded in Sunbury and Campbellfield, but is now restricted to a few reserves. Only a small number of populations are left around Melbourne, but it does grow very well in suburban gardens.

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| Flowering | • | • | • | • | | | | • | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | • | • | • | | | | | • | • | • |



Size

High: 20 - 60 centimetre
Wide: 20 centimetre - 1 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

No known indigenous cultural uses.

Planting Advice

- A fabulous plant for any garden or container.
- Looks great mass planted as a sprawling groundcover with repeated flushes of flowers extended over winter to summer.
- Excellent long-lasting cut flowers that also keep their colour when dried.
- Acts as annual or perennial depending on conditions, and responds well to pruning off the old stems.
- Propagate easily by seed, cuttings or division.
- All-round fabulous wildlife habitat plant as attracts butterflies and bees, is good around frog bogs or lizard lounges to attract insects, and brings in insect-eating birds too.
- Tolerates water logging for long periods of time. Prefers heavy moist soils.



Tufted Bluebell

Wahlenbergia capillaris (Syn. *W. communis*)

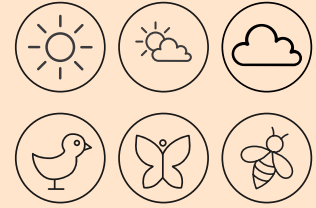
Identification

A vigorous, perennial wildflower with a mass of thin stems covered in narrow, green leaves. Bright purple-blue bell-shaped flowers occur on the ends of stems. Fine powder-like seed can be collected once the seed capsule and the top part of the stalk turns brown.

Status in Hume City

Occurs in a wide range of vegetation types, including grasslands, woodlands, escarpments, and riparian areas (along waterways). Recorded in over 15 Nature Conservations Reserves, while several other species of *Wahlenbergia* can be found in Cragieburn, Mickleham, Bulla, and Sunbury.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flowering | • | • | • | | | | | | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | • | • | • | | | | | | • | • |



Size

High: 15 - 50 centimetre
Wide: 15 - 60 centimetre

Indigenous Cultural Use

The flowers are edible, closing quickly after picking.

Planting Advice

- Great anywhere in the garden including pots, borders, rock gardens, and under trees.
- Long-flowering and spreads readily by seed and suckers, with the potential to take over garden beds.
- Looks spectacular when co-planted with yellow and white daisies.
- Removing old flower heads will encourage more flowering. Prune back old growth hard in winter to encourage fresh shoots.
- Attracts butterflies, insects and insect-eating birds.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.
- Drought tolerant.



Spreading or Black-anther Flax-lily

Dianella revoluta (Syn. *D. admixta*)

Identification

This perennial tufting plant spreads by rhizomes to form dense clumps of upright blue-green, strap-like leaves to 70 centimetres long. Each leaf has a central mid-rib to its pointed tip. Clusters of bright blue to violet flowers with six petals, 15 millimetres across, have yellow stamens and black anthers. The sprays of flower are carried on branching, wiry stems to one metre tall. Shiny, rounded, fleshy, dark-blue berries contain numerous small black seeds.

Status in Hume City

Common in Hume City and found in over 50 reserves, mostly in grassy woodlands and plains grasslands. Several other *Dianella* species are also present, including the threatened *D. amoena*.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flowering | | • | | | | | | | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | | • | • | | | | | | | • | • | • |



Size

High: 40 centimetre - 1 metre
Wide: 20 centimetre - 1 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Leaves split and twisted together to make a strong string and used in basket-making. The blue berries produce dyes. Conflicting references exist about whether the fruit is edible, with some authors cautioning that the fruit is poisonous. The roots can be cooked and eaten.

Planting Advice

- Very hardy, long-lived, attractive plant growing well in rockeries, containers, and under trees.
- Long flowering and fruiting period.
- Indigenous species to plant instead of *Agapanthus*.
- Propagates most easily by lifting and dividing the clumps of rhizomes.
- Attracts pollinating insects, while some birds eat the fruit and seeds. Blue Banded Bees love *Dianella!*
- Tolerates heavy clay soils.
- Drought tolerant once established. Frost and limestone tolerant.



Spiny-headed Mat-rush, Basket Grass

Lomandra longifolia

Identification

This spreading, perennial, tufting plant forms dense clumps of bright-green, strap-like leaves to one metre long. Each leaf is flattened with two to three teeth at the apex of the tip. There are male and female flowering plants with honey-scented cream-coloured spikes. Shiny brown capsules are held for most of year.

Status in Hume City

Naturally found growing along waterways and escarpments. Still widespread and populations occur in over 40 Nature Conservation Reserves. Is one of the most commonly-used landscape plants in parks and gardens.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flowering | • | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | • | | | | | | • | • | • | • |



Size

High: 50 centimetre - 1 metre
Wide: 50 centimetre - 1 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Leaves beaten and soaked to separate fibres, or soften by drawing through hot ashes, to make a strong string for net-bags. Leaves also twisted and woven together into mats, baskets, eel-traps and many other useful items. Nectar-rich flowers and white leaf bases are edible. Some Aboriginal groups grind the seeds into flour.

Planting Advice

- Incredibly versatile and hardy plant, that is suitable in rockeries, containers, and under trees. Perfumed flowers and floral art.
- Spreads with robust rhizomes. Propagate from fresh seed.
- Excellent habitat plant for caterpillars, seed-eating birds and insect-eating birds. Also provides cover and shelter for lizards and frogs.
- Tolerates heavy clay to sandy soils. Frost and smog tolerant.
- Drought tolerant and can tolerate temporary inundation.



Common Tussock Grass

Poa labillardierei

Identification

A large tussock grass that forms a clump with long, coarse, green to blue-green leaves, that dry to a straw colour. In spring and summer, carries open plume-like flowers, with a green or purplish tinge on the spreading branches. Mature seed is easy to collect as comes loose by lightly running pinched fingers up stems towards the tips.

Status in Hume City

Widespread in grasslands, grassy woodlands, grassy wetlands and riparian zones. One of Hume's most common indigenous species being recorded in over 75 Nature Conservations Reserves and is frequently used in landscaping.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flowering | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | • | • | | | | | | | | • |



Size

High: 50 centimetre - 1.2 metre
Wide: 50 centimetre - 1.5 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

Seed collected as food plant to make flour and dough. Leaves make a strong twine, then turned into nets and traps..

Planting Advice

- Fast growing and visually appealing tussock. Mass plant with other tufting and strappy leaf plants, like **Dianella** and **Lomandra** to fill in spaces in rockeries, around ponds, or in pots.
- Propagate from seed.
- Rejuvenate old tussocks every couple of years in autumn, with a hard prune or burn the leaves off, then water deeply and regularly.
- Attracts insect-eating and seed-eating birds, while the leaves provide nesting material. Good for frogs and lizards as gives shelter and cover from predators. Important caterpillar plant.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Tolerates temporary inundation.
- Frost tolerant.



Creeping Boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium

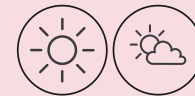
Identification

This low-growing, prostrate groundcover forms a dense mat with thick, narrow, green leaves all along the stems. White to pink star-like flowers, with purple spots dotting its throat, will cover the plant over spring and summer, followed by green to purplish fruit (drupes) in autumn.

Status in Hume City

The indigenous form is considered to be locally extinct around Melbourne and is not recorded in any Nature Conservation Reserves. However, the horticultural industry has produced many forms with different leaf shapes and colours that are widely used.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flowering | • | • | • | • | • | • | | | • | • | • | • |
| Seed Collection | • | • | • | • | • | • | | | | | | |



Size

High: 5 - 10 centimetre
Wide: 1 - 2.5 metre

Indigenous Cultural Use

The fruits are edible.

Planting Advice

- Adaptable, vigorous, and hardy groundcover good for containers, rockeries, embankments, retaining walls, and under trees.
- Use to reduce soil erosion as binds the soil.
- Use as a living green mulch to help suppress weeds. Is also fire retarding.
- Long flowering period attracts butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Birds like rosellas eat the fruit. Provides cover for frogs and lizards.
- Propagates easily by cutting or layering, while seed treatments are required to enable germination.
- Frost tolerant. Good in coastal, saline, and lime soils. Suitable for most well-drained soils and tolerates dry soils once established. Good in shady dry conditions.



Purple Coral Pea, False Sarsparilla

Hardenbergia violacea

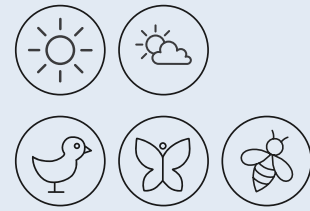
Identification

A vigorous creeper or wiry scrambler with long twining stems and broad, leathery, dark green, and heavily-veined leaves. Long sprays of 10 to 30 purple pea-shaped flowers, with bright green and white centres, provide an attractive mass flowering over winter. Hard-coated seeds are produced in flat, leathery, dark brown to blackish pods.

Status in Hume City

Found in grasslands, woodlands, and forests. Now occurs naturally only in two Nature Conservation Reserves in Craigieburn and Sunbury. Is widely used in revegetation and landscaping projects.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flowering | | | | | | • | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Seed Collection | • | | | | | | | • | • | • | • | • |



Size

High: Variable, up to 3 metre
Wide: Variable

Indigenous Cultural Use

The flowers used as a source of dye, while a pleasant sweet tea can be made from infusing the leaves in boiling water.

Planting Advice

- Note that non-indigenous cultivars like “Happy Wanderer” or other coloured flowering forms can hybridise with local wild remnant plants.
- Adaptable, attractive plant can be used as a groundcover, screen, or to cover an embankment.
- Prune back after flowering. Becomes woody with age and lives up to ten years.
- Propagate by cuttings or scarified seeds.
- Attracts butterflies, native bees, and insect-eating birds. Birds may nest in it when a dense climber.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils.



Getting involved with the Gardens for Wildlife program:

- Apply to have a one-hour garden visit with Garden Guides, to chat about how to make your garden more wildlife-friendly.
- Visit hume.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife for more information.
- Application rounds are kept open until there is a waiting list of 30 interested people who have applied.
- This is a free service offered to residents, businesses, organisations, and schools located in Hume City.
- Garden visits can be conducted during the week or on the weekends.
- Garden Guides are members of the community with an interest in gardening and helping to conserve nature. These volunteers have been screened, inducted and trained by Council so it is safe to have them come to your place.
- Receive a detailed report with suggested plants and habitat features to install.
- Participants are given a small gift and become eligible to collect some free indigenous seedlings in winter.

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