



Coastal Gardens

A planting guide for
Kangaroo Island



Government
of South Australia

Kangaroo Island
Natural Resources
Management Board



Healthy and attractive coastal landscapes

This guide provides simple yet inspiring garden advice for coastal residents on Kangaroo Island. Water-wise local native plants are suggested as attractive replacements for introduced plants that are harmful to our local coastal landscapes.

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Using this planting guide

Getting started

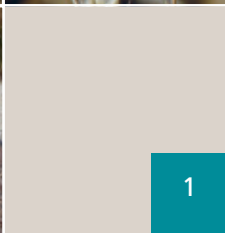
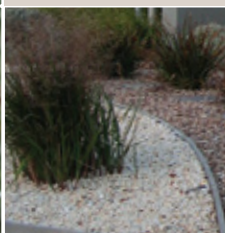
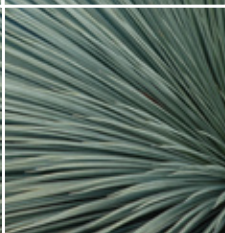
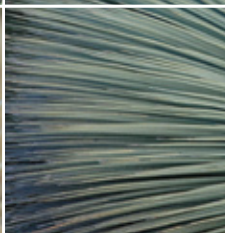
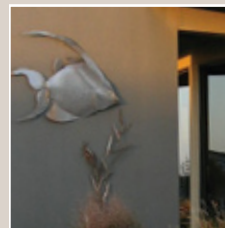
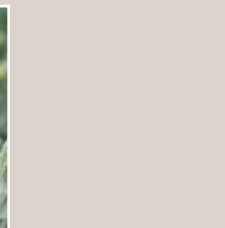
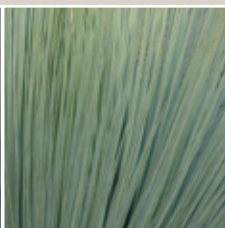
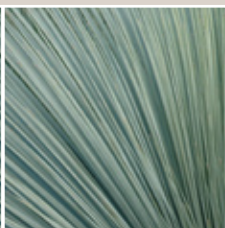
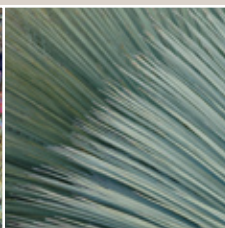
Our gardens are challenged with long-hot-dry summers, drought, water restrictions, and a changing climate. As a coastal resident you may also have to tackle salt spray, sand blasting, sandy or saline soils and alkalinity.

However, there is good news! You can have a garden that copes with our tough climate without compromising on design, by using resilient, local native coastal plants.

This guide shows you how to utilise the fantastic variety of native plants available to make a stunning garden. Taking you through step by step, you will learn what plant works best for a given area or need, how to incorporate them in different landscaping designs, how to maintain them, and where to buy.

You will learn about plants to avoid which are known for becoming serious weeds in natural coastal environments. When buying plants, you will be prepared to consider natives for the benefits they provide. You may also identify invasive plants growing in your garden and decide to replace them with recommended alternatives.

Using local native plants in your coastal garden benefits your wallet. It's an easy, rewarding way to look after our environment. We hope you enjoy discovering local coastal plants. Happy gardening!





Discovering local plants

What is a local plant?

Local plants are species that would naturally occur in your area so they have evolved to suit local conditions. They are also called 'indigenous plants'.

Why use local plants?

- Local plants have a huge range of benefits
- Low maintenance
 - Drought tolerant
 - Require minimal watering = conserves our water supplies
 - Don't need fertilisers or pesticides
 - Provide habitat, food and shelter for local fauna such as birds, butterflies and small lizards
 - Save you money and time
 - Adaptable for various landscaping designs, producing striking results
 - Native plants flower at different times of the year so you can have a flowering garden all year round.

Local plants are a great option for residents of coastal areas. They have adapted to survive the harsh conditions of sand and salt blasting, prolonged sun exposure, nutrient-deprived soils, and limited water availability. They are the best plants for your local area and the environment.

How to use local plants

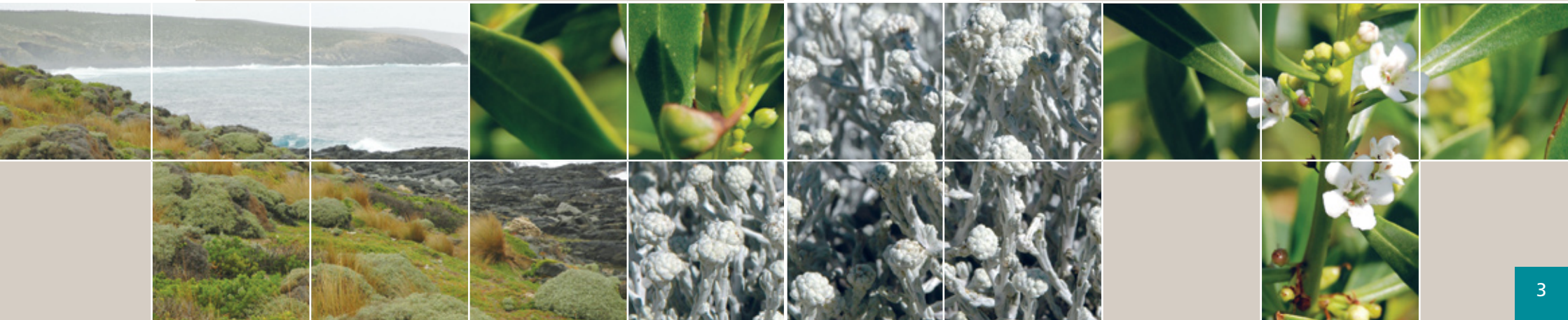
Local plants can be incorporated into your garden the same way as exotic plants. They are suited to all landscaping designs, from formal to Japanese, contemporary to natural cottage, to courtyards and pots.

Local plants featured in this guide are attractive, suit home and holiday house gardens, are easy to grow and maintain, and are commercially available.

As you will discover throughout this guide, there is a local coastal plant for most garden situations. Plants featured include striking ground-covers, low shrubs, structured sedges and grasses, flowering creepers and trailers, bird-attracting shrubs and screening trees. Plant species that can tolerate direct coastal exposure (e.g. esplanade locations) are featured, as well as those plants that thrive with some protection from coastal elements (e.g. in your backyard, behind a fence or inland from the foreshore).

This guide also shows you which local species to use for particular effects, and makes friendlier recommendations for replacing plants known to become invasive coastal weeds.

Information on caring for local plants is provided on pages 26–27.



Garden escapes

Are you harbouring known villains?



How do garden plants become coastal invaders?

Weeds are plants growing where they aren't wanted, and they aren't just sour sobs and thistles! Some plants escape from gardens and become serious environmental weeds which pose a major threat to the health and value of our natural environments.

Environmental weeds are trouble!

- They threaten our local native plants and environment
- Can reduce habitat, shelter and food for native fauna
- Can alter soil conditions
- Clog up waterways and effect water quality entering the ocean
- Harbour pest animals such as feral cats and rats which prey on native wildlife
- Can alter coastal dune shape
- Garden escapes are very costly to control and take resources away from other important issues.

Plants that cause problems often originate from regions with similar climates, such as the Mediterranean and South Africa. Thriving in similar conditions, they out-compete local natives as they don't have the pests and diseases that controlled them in their original environment.

You might not realise you're harbouring garden escapes, or might not know they 'jump the fence' to become problems. Garden plants can escape into natural environments naturally, accidentally and deliberately:

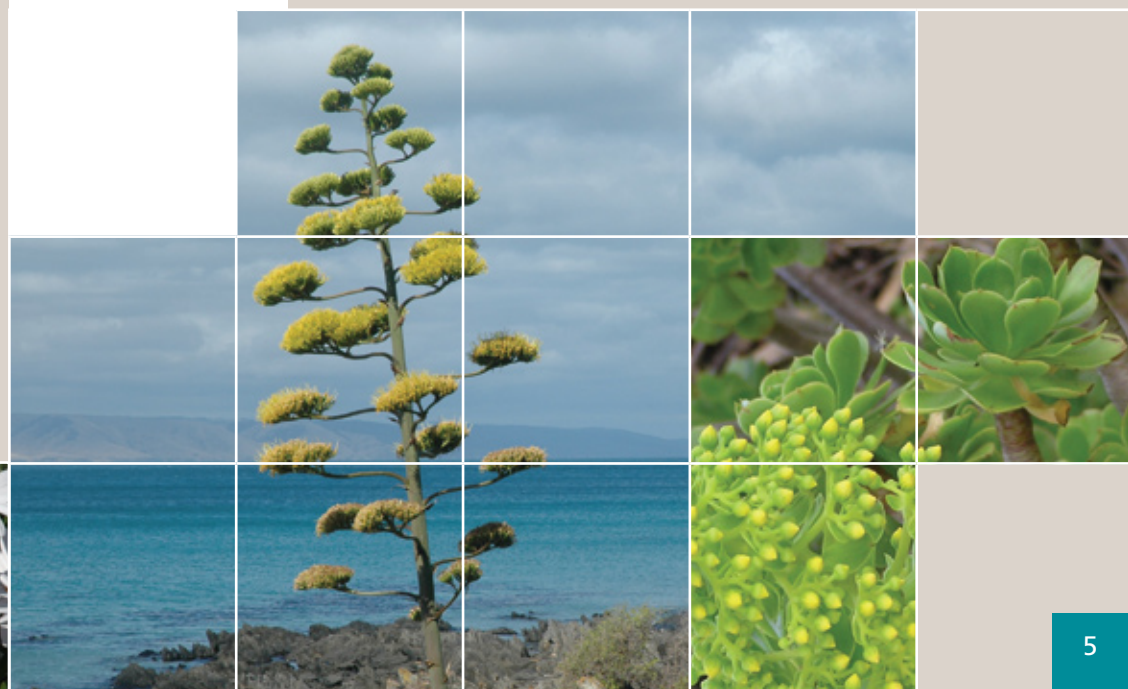
- Seeds can be spread by birds and other animals, wind, water (including stormwater) or humans (on clothing, shoes etc)
- Dumped garden waste containing seeds or plant cuttings can grow even several months later
- Sometimes people deliberately plant garden plants in our natural coastal environments
- Garden plants can grow through fences directly on the coast.

You can help!

Have a good look through this guide to check which common garden plants are nasties in the coastal environment. You might like to remove any you have and replace them with the indigenous plants suggested. Take this guide with you when you are making new plant purchases and don't buy plants which are known to be a problem.

Here are some other easy things you can do:

- Use local native species in your garden
- Dispose of your garden waste responsibly
- Check with the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board before you plant into natural coastal environments.
- Get involved in looking after our coast! Find out more from the NRM Board (www.kinrm.sa.gov.au) or Eco-Action (www.eco-action.com.au).

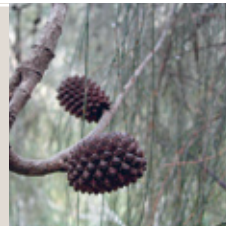


DON'T PLANT a garden escape!

GROW ME instead



Coast Tea-tree *Leptospermum laevigatum*
Flowers: late winter and spring
Reproduces: seed (woody capsule)
Dispersal: wind, water, humans (soil movement, garden waste, vehicles).



Drooping Sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata*
Tree growing between 5–8 m. Long weeping branchlets, grey-green. Interesting cone-like fruit. Use as feature tree or for screening. Birds such as parrots and cockatoos are attracted to fruit.



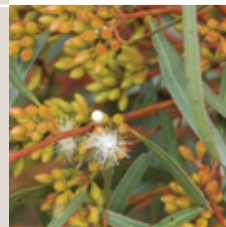
Mirror-bush *Coprosma repens*
Flowers: summer
Reproduces: orange-red berries containing seed, autumn to winter
Dispersal: birds, animals and humans (garden waste).



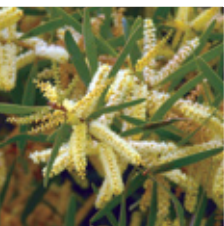
Common Boobialla *Myoporum insulare*
Large shrub to small tree, grows 2–5m. Thick light green fleshy leaves, white flowers winter to spring, purple berry fruit. Good screening qualities. Attracts birds and butterflies. Full-sun.



Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum*
Flowers: late winter and spring
Reproduces: seeds, suckering
Dispersal: birds, seeds and root/crown fragments.



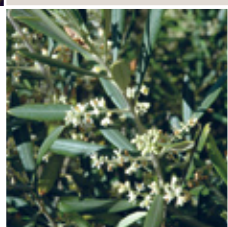
Narrow-leaf Red Mallee *Eucalyptus leptophylla*
Usually multi-stemmed mallee 2–8m. Branchlets red. Leaves narrow, light green, shiny oil-dots clearly visible when held to the light. White flowers in autumn and winter. Sandy soils. Minimum 3.5 metre setback from property and sewage pipes. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



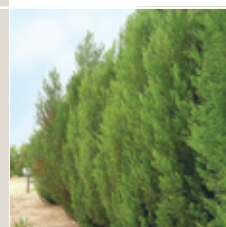
Sallow Wattle *Acacia longifolia* var. *longifolia*
Flowers: winter to spring
Reproduces: by seed
Dispersal: birds, ants and in soil.



Sticky Hop-bush *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *spatulata*
Erect shrub to 3m, bright green sticky leaves. Green flowers in winter turn to striking red seed pods in spring. Great for hedging or screening. Responds to pruning. Attracts butterflies in summer. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Olive *Olea europaea*
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: dark purple fruit containing large single seed in autumn-winter
Dispersal: birds, humans (cultivation and landscaping).



Southern Cypress Pine *Callitris gracilis* (formerly *C. preissii*)
Cylindrical shaped tree to 5–15m. Green foliage. Fruit is a dark brown cone. Great for formal gardens. Attractive foliage. Use as a replacement plant for conifers, as singular feature plant, line driveway or for screening. Responds well to pruning. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Pyramid Tree *Lagunaria patersonii*
Flowers: summer and early autumn
Reproduces: seeds and vegetatively
Dispersal: humans, movement of seed in contaminated soil, water.



Native Apricot *Pittosporum angustifolium* (formerly *P. phylliraeoides*)
Tall shrub or small tree 3–6 m. Weeping branches, leaves smooth, narrow and shiny green, whitish-grey bark. Small yellow, tubular flowers in winter to spring. Vulnerable on KI.

Medium shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



Western Coastal Wattle *Acacia cyclops*

Flowers: early spring to late autumn
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: birds, ants.



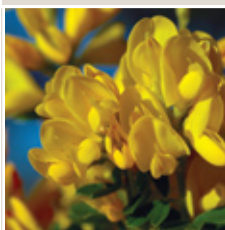
Century Plant *Agave americana*

Flowers: summer
Reproduces: seed, vegetative production
Dispersal: humans (garden waste).



Myrtle-leaf Milkwort *Polygala myrtifolia*

Flowers: spring
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: birds, ants, water.

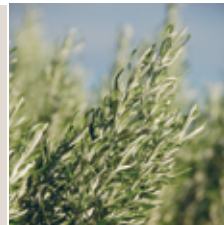


Montpellier broom *Genista monspessulana*

Flowers: late winter and spring
Reproduces: seeds, germinates after fire, regrows when cut
Dispersal: pods burst, water and soil movement. Proclaimed plant in South Australia.



GROW ME instead



Coast Daisy-bush *Olearia axillaris*

Shrub to 3m. Leaves dark blue-green above, white below. White, daisy-like flowers occur along stems in summer and autumn. Grows quickly, lives 6-10 years. Benefits from pruning. Screening plant, foliage contrast. Full-sun to semi-shade.



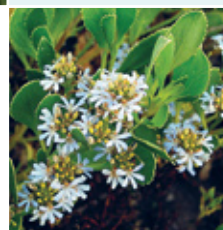
Coast Saltbush *Atriplex cinerea*

Spreading shrub to 1.5m high. Leaves grey-green. Flowers from winter through to early summer. Male flowers yellow, clustered at ends of stems, female flowers single along stem. Avoid pruning. Good plant for backdrop and foliage contrast.



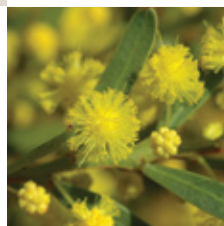
Common Fringe-myrtle *Calytrix tetragona*

Bushy shrub to 1 metre, small leaves, produces masses of pink to white star-shaped flowers in spring followed by a colourful display as flowers dry out naturally. Sun or light shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Cushion Fanflower *Scaevola crassifolia*

Spreading robust shrub to 1m high, 1m wide. Bright green slightly serrated leaves, flowers bright blue to pale purple, fan-shaped, occur spring to early summer. Attractive flowers. Full-sun.



Three-edged Wattle *Acacia triquetra*

Spreading bushy shrub to 1.5 m. Young branches angular in cross section. Phyllodes held upright. Ball shaped flowers winter to mid spring.



Emu Bush *Eremophila glabra*

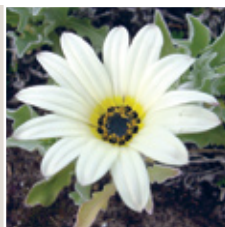
Attractive shrub to over head high. Stiff grey-green leaves, long red or yellow tubular flowers occur from winter to summer. Attracts honeyeaters. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



Beach Daisy *Arctotheca populifolia*
Flowers: winter to summer
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: wind, tidal currents.



White Arctotis *Arctotis stoechadifolia*
Flowers: spring to summer
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: wind, humans (deliberate planting, garden waste).



Hottentot Fig *Carpobrotus edulis*
Flowers: late summer to winter
Reproduces: fleshy fruit in summer, also spreads by vegetative production
Dispersal: animals, humans (deliberate planting, garden waste).



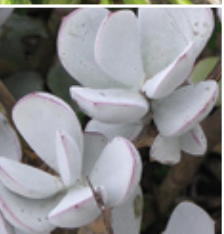
Gazania *Gazania* spp.
Flowers: most of year, mainly spring to autumn
Reproduces: seed, vegetatively
Dispersal: water, humans (deliberate plantings, garden waste).



Seascape Daisy *Osteospermum fruticosum*
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: vegetatively
Dispersal: humans (garden waste, vegetative spread, deliberate planting).



Agapanthus *Agapanthus praecox*
Flowers: late spring and summer
Reproduces: seed and vegetatively
Dispersal: deliberate planting, dumped garden waste and contaminated soil.

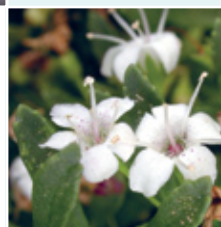


Succulents
Flowers: various
Reproduces: most species will also spread by vegetative growth, some set seed
Dispersal: humans (deliberate planting, garden waste), some by wind.

GROW ME instead



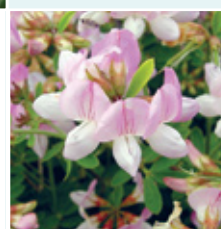
Salmon Correa *Correa pulchella*
Attractive shrub growing 0.5 to 1m tall, 1-2m spread. Bell-shaped flowers occur in pink, red or orange from winter to spring. Attracts birds. Semi shade to full sun. Will not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Creeping Boobialla *Myoporum parvifolium*
Groundcover growing shin high to 5m wide. Small green leaves, dainty white or pale purple flowers in spring or summer. Good soil stabiliser. Space filler. Trail down rock walls. Lawn replacement (where no foot traffic). Attracts butterflies, provides shelter for small lizards. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Crinkled Hop-bush *Dodonea baueri*
Spreading wiry shrub to 1m high. Leaves round, egg-shaped. Flowers summer to early autumn, fruits shiny red inflated capsule. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Austral Trefoil *Lotus australis*
Spreading herb to 30cm. Pale green leaves, white to pink pea flowers occur in clusters, spring to summer. Pretty plant, suits cottage or bushland garden. Can plant in pots. Prune after flowering. Full-sun to semi-shade.



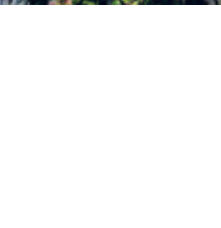
Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs

GROW ME instead



Muntries *Kunzea pomifera*

Ground-hugging shrub with branches extending over several metres. Thick bright green leaves, showy white fluffy flowers in spring and early summer. Purple berries. Space filler. Suitable for pots and hanging baskets. Full-sun to semi-shade. Ripe fruits are edible.



Cushion Bush *Leucopyhta brownii*

Compact, rounded shrub to 1m. Silver-grey foliage, pale yellow ball-shaped flowers in summer. Great structural form, provides colour and texture contrast. Responds well to regular pruning. Full-sun.



Woolly New Holland Daisy *Vittadinia gracilis*

Perennial daisy to 30cm high. Tiny purple, pink or white daisy flowers mainly in spring, turning to fluffy seed heads. Pretty flowering plant. Suits small, cottage and bushland gardens. Attracts butterflies. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Native Fuchsia *Correa reflexa*

Small shrub with dark green leaves, pink bell flowers in winter and spring. Attractive flowers, great in formal, cottage or bushland garden settings. Attracts birds. Full-sun to shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.

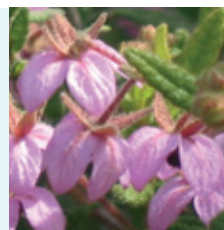


Native Pigface *Carpobrotus rossii*

Thick, fleshy groundcover. Green leaves triangular in cross-section, large bright pink flowers occur in spring. Attractive ground-cover, soil stabiliser. Suitable as trailing plant for pots or down walls. Ripe fruits are edible.

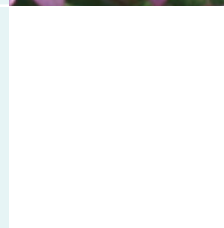


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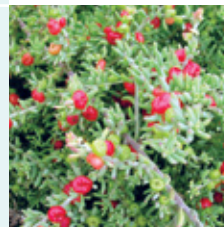
Paper Flower *Thomasia petalocalyx*

Attractive small shrub to 60cm tall by 60cm spread. Crinkly green leaves, small sprays of pink papery flowers occur spring to early summer. Sun to semi shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



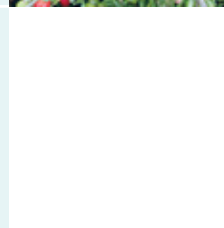
Round-leaf Pigface *Disphyma crassifolium*

Succulent groundcover plant. Green leaves round in cross section, bright pink flowers in spring. Attractive ground-cover, soil stabiliser. Trail over rock walls. Tolerates saline soils. Full-sun to shade.



Ruby Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa*

Low shrub to 1m. Leaves small, blue-green, fleshy. Yellow to red fleshy fruits produced through-out the year. Attracts native wildlife. Responds well to pruning (can prune seasonally if starts to dominate garden bed). Full-sun to semi-shade. Ripe fruits are edible.



Sticky Goodenia *Goodenia varia*

Low shrub to 1m high. New growth sticky to touch. Leaves are rounded and serrated. Yellow flowers throughout the year.



DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



Couch Grass *Cynodon dactylon*

Flowers: late spring to early summer

Reproduces: sets seed in summer, also spreads vegetatively (including lawn clippings)

Dispersal: water, garden waste.



Fountain Grass *Pennisetum setaceum*

Flowers: summer to autumn

Reproduces: via seed

Dispersal: wind, water, humans (clothing, garden waste, deliberate planting).



Kikuyu *Pennisetum clandestinum*

Flowers: summer to autumn

Reproduces: vegetative reproduction (eg. lawn clippings)

Dispersal: water, humans (soil movement, garden waste, vegetative spread from properties).

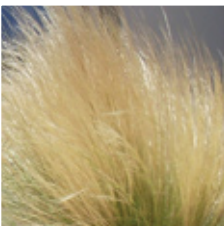


Buffalo Grass *Stenotaphrum secundatum*

Flowers: spring to autumn

Reproduces: vegetatively, sometimes seed

Dispersal: water, humans (garden waste, soil movement, vegetative spread from properties), livestock faeces.



Mexican Feather Grass *Nassella tenuissima*

Flowers: spring and early summer

Reproduces: seed

Dispersal: deliberate plantings, wind, animals, fodder, machinery, vehicles, slashing and in soil.



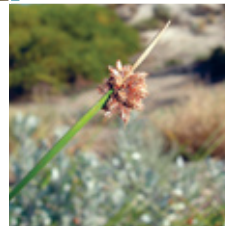
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Wallaby Grass *Austrodanthonia* spp.

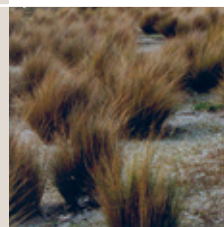
Clumping grass to knee high, fluffy white seed heads in summer. Plant in clumps, good in bush garden setting.

Attracts wildlife including butterflies.



Knobby Club-rush *Ficinia nodosa* (formerly *Isolepis nodosa*)

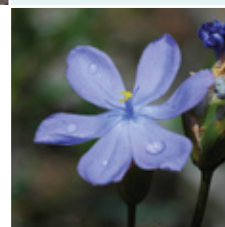
Attractive evergreen clumping plant to 1m high. Leaves dark-green, cylindrical and up-right. Flower heads brown ball-shaped, occur all year. Versatile plant. Use as accent, group plantings, pot-plants, around ponds. Tolerates salt spray and wet zones. Attracts butterflies. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Coast Spear-grass *Austrostipa* spp.

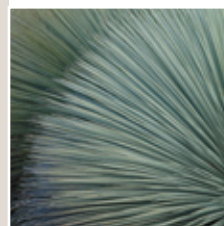
Tussock grass species of varying heights, with flowering stems to 1m.

Use coastal species *A. flavescens* (tall) and *A. elegantissima* (small and compact). Plant in clumps, suitable for mass plantings. Showy when in flower. Fill in spaces or border plantings. Attracts butterflies.



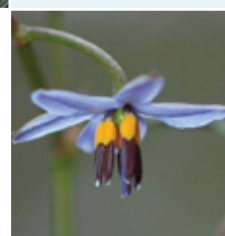
Morning Flag *Orthrosanthus multiflorus*

Long narrow leaves up to 60cm high. Abundant baby-blue flowers (with yellow anthers) held high above the leaves in late winter and spring.



Tate's Grass-tree (Yacca) *Xanthorrea semiplana* var. *tateana*

Trunk to 3m high. Juveniles have no trunk. Dense crown of grass-like leaves to 1.5m. Flowers creamy-white on a cylindrical spike up to 3m long in spring. Flower spikes form more following fire. Slow growing. Growth can be hastened by applying fertiliser. A range of birds, moths and butterflies visit the flowers. Grubs in flower stalk are food for cockatoos.



Black-anther Flax-lily *Dianella revoluta*

Small clumping lily to 1m high. Leaves have long, rolled over edges. Blue flowers (black anthers with orange base) above the foliage line in spring and early summer. *D. brevicaulis* flowers below the foliage line.

DON'T PLANT

a garden escape!

GROW ME

instead

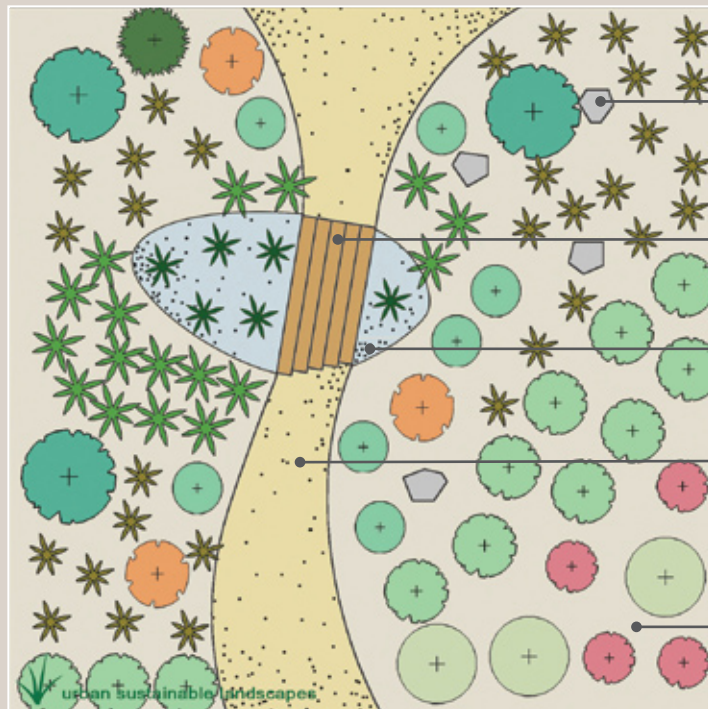
	<p>Bridal Creeper <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i></p> <p>Flowers: spring</p> <p>Reproduces: red berries containing seed in late spring, also spreads via underground tuber</p> <p>Dispersal: red berries containing seed in late spring, also spreads via underground tubers.</p>		<p>Native Lilac <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i></p> <p>Climber or shrub with trailing and twining stems. Dark green leaves, clumps of bright purple pea flowers in winter. Attractive climber, trailing pot-plant or small shrub. Attracts butterflies. Full-sun to shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.</p>
	<p>Bridal Veil <i>Asparagus declinatus</i></p> <p>Flowers: winter</p> <p>Reproduces: green/blue berries containing seed in late winter/early spring, also spreads via underground tubers</p> <p>Dispersal: birds, lizards, humans (garden waste).</p>		<p>Sweet Appleberry <i>Billardiera cymosa</i></p> <p>Climber or small shrub to shin high. Dark green leaves, striking purple to blue flowers in spring, red/purple berries in summer. Attracts butterflies. Full-sun to semi-shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.</p>
	<p>Bluebell Creeper <i>Sollya heterophylla</i></p> <p>Flowers: spring and summer</p> <p>Reproduces: seed</p> <p>Dispersal: birds.</p>		<p>Old Man's Beard <i>Clematis decipiens (formerly C. microphylla)</i></p> <p>Climber reaching several metres with support, can also be planted as groundcover. Masses of pale green/white flowers occur winter to early spring. Female flowers turn to fluffy seeds late spring. Full sun to partial shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.</p>
	<p>Blue Periwinkle Creeper <i>Vinca major</i></p> <p>Flowers: spring and summer</p> <p>Reproduces: stem rooting, vegetatively</p> <p>Dispersal: water, garden waste.</p>		
	<p>Lavatory Creeper <i>Dipogon lignosus</i></p> <p>Flowers: spring</p> <p>Reproduces: seed pods, also spreads by underground tubers</p> <p>Dispersal: seed pods 'explode', birds, dumped garden waste or movement of contaminated soil.</p>		

Natural cottage garden design (front yard)

These gardens are relaxed and flowing, and are a wonderful place for local wildlife. To achieve a natural cottage garden, mimic the flow and mix of plant species in natural coastal areas. Allow plants to cascade over paths and lace through one another. Utilise weaving paths and rustic furniture. Add a bird bath or hollow logs to attract and support local wildlife. A natural cottage garden is easy to achieve with local coastal plants as many species flower in winter, providing a colourful garden year-round.

The design below shows how you can use local plants to create a natural cottage garden design in your front yard. Front yards have a focus on street presentation and welcome people to your home. The plants featured in the design can tolerate direct coastal exposure and won't block sea views. Apply this design to your own front yard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own.

House area



Driveway area

Large local quarry rock

Recycled railway sleepers laid flush with gravel

Swale area with local coloured gravel

Compacted road base gravel with sustainably sourced ornamental gravel coating

Mulch

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

Medium Shrubs



Cushion Bush

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Crinkled Hop-bush



Creeping Boobialla



Muntries



Native Pigface



Sticky Goodenia



Ruby Saltbush

Grasses and sedges



Black-anther Flax-lily



Coast Spear-grass

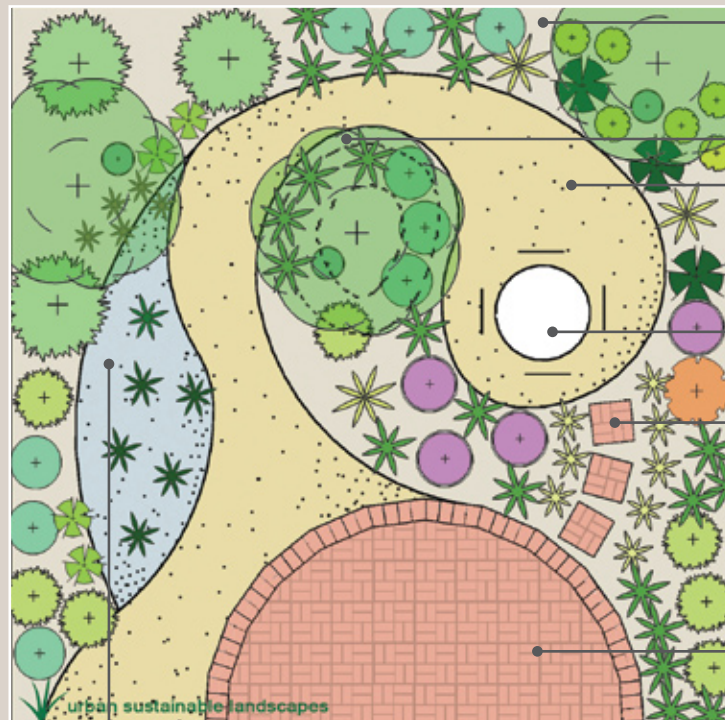


Knobby Club-rush

Natural cottage garden design (backyard)

These gardens are relaxed and flowing, and are a wonderful place for local wildlife. To achieve a natural cottage garden, mimic the flow and mix of plant species in natural coastal areas. Allow plants to cascade over paths and lace through one another. Utilise weaving paths and rustic furniture. Add bird baths, hollow logs and nesting boxes to attract and support local wildlife. A natural cottage garden is easy to achieve with local coastal plants as many species flower in winter, providing a colourful garden year-round.

The design below shows how you can use local plants to create a natural cottage garden design in your backyard. This backyard design has a focus on open space, while providing privacy and social areas. The backyard has protection from direct coastal exposure so a greater variety plants can be utilised, including those with height. Apply this design to your own backyard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own.



House area

Swale area light coloured local gravel

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

Mulch

Mounded area

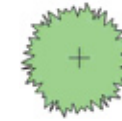
Compacted road base gravel with sustainably sourced ornamental gravel coating

Table and chairs

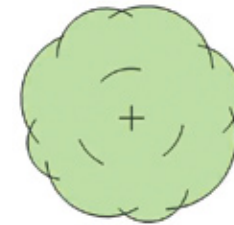
Stepping stones using 100 x 200 mm recycled red brick pavers

100 x 200 mm recycled red brick pavers

Trees and tall shrubs



Common Boobialla



Slender-leaved Red Mallee

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Round-leaf Pigface



Native Fuchsia



Ruby Saltbush



Muntries



Woolly New Holland Daisy



Paper Flower

Grasses and sedges



Tate's Grass-tree (Yacca)



Morning Flag



Wallaby Grass



Black-anthler Flax-lily



Knobby Club-rush

Climbers



Native Lilac (used as small shrub)



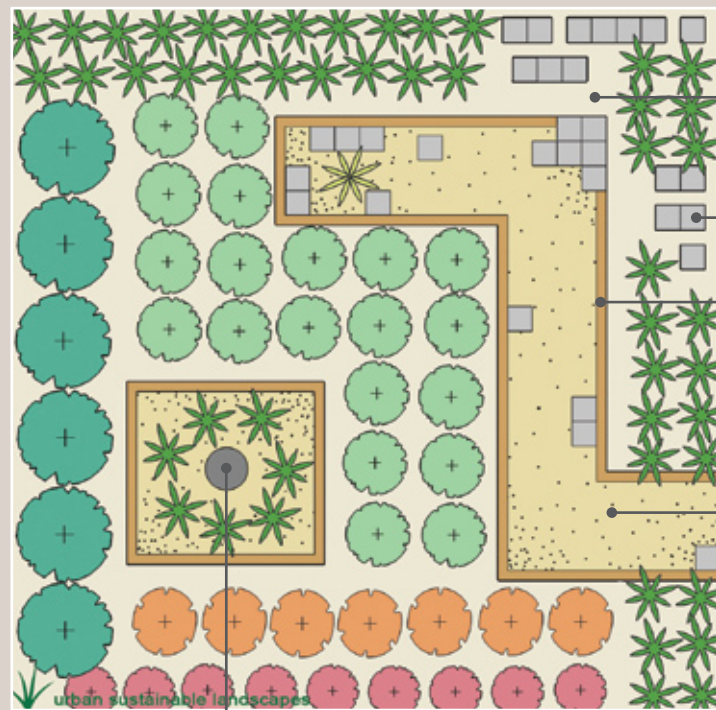
Old Man's Beard

Contemporary garden design (front yard)

Contemporary gardens feature bold modern designs, with an emphasis on contrasts of colour, texture and form. Many local coastal plants offer excellent colour and texture to provide opportunity for bold designs. To develop your own contemporary garden, create interesting garden bed shapes using a mix of plants and landscaping materials that provide strong contrasts.

The design below shows how you can use local plants to create a contemporary garden design in your front yard. Front yards have a focus on street presentation and welcome people to your home. The plants featured in the design can tolerate direct coastal exposure and won't block sea views. Apply this design to your own front yard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own.

House area



Driveway area

Mulch

500 x 500 mm pavers

Recycled hardwood timber edging

Compacted road base gravel with sustainably sourced ornamental gravel coating

Bird bath/sculpture

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

Medium Shrubs



Cushion Bush

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Native Pigface



Sticky Goodenia



Ruby Saltbush

Grasses and sedges



Black-anthler Flax-lily

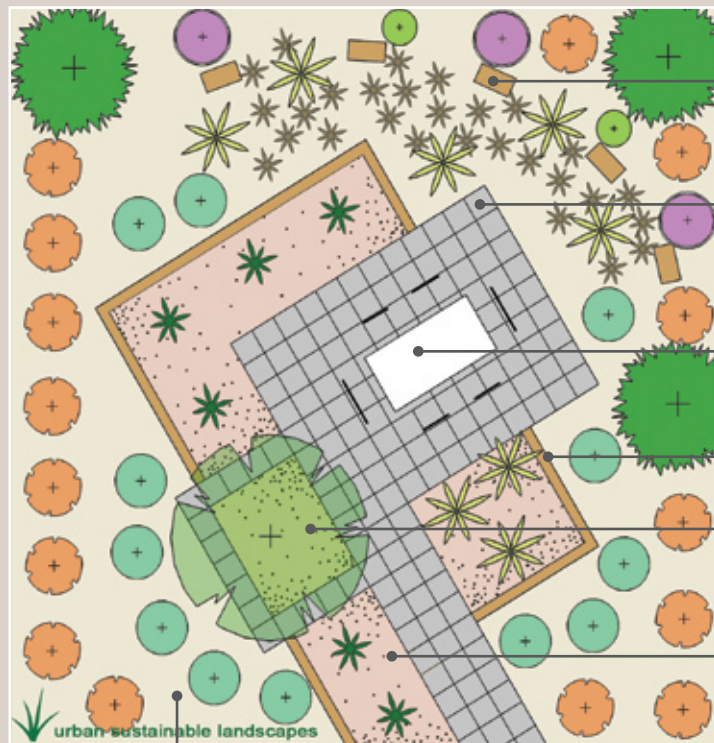


Tate's Grass-tree (Yacca)

Contemporary garden design (backyard)

Contemporary gardens feature bold modern designs, with an emphasis on contrasts of colour, texture and form. Many local coastal plants offer excellent colour and texture to provide opportunity for bold designs. To develop your own contemporary garden, create interesting garden bed shapes using a mix of plants and landscaping materials that provide strong contrasts. A simple outdoor setting suits contemporary garden designs.

The design below shows how you can use local plants to create a contemporary garden design in your backyard. This backyard design has a focus on open space, while providing privacy and social areas. The backyard has protection from direct coastal exposure so a greater variety plants can be utilised, including those with height. Apply this design to your own backyard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own.



House area

Mulch

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

Upright railway sleepers

500 x 500mm pavers

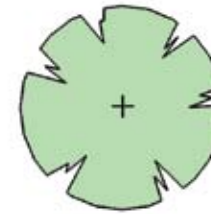
Table and chairs

Recycled hardwood timber edging

Sustainably sourced ornamental gravel

Local gravel contrasting colour

Trees and tall shrubs



Drooping Sheoak



Southern Cypress Pine

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Ruby Saltbush



Muntries

Grasses and sedges



Grass Tree (Yacca)



Knobby Club-rush



Wallaby Grass

Climbers



Native Lilac



Sweet Appleberry

Growing local coastal plants

When to plant

Planting is best done in the cooler months through autumn and winter. The ideal time is after the autumn opening rains when the soil is moist, and plants have ample time to establish roots before the warm weather kicks in.

Watering

Water-in your new plants. Over the first summer they may need an occasional deep watering, but no more than once a week. After their first summer, they should cope on rainfall alone. Prior to severe heat waves, give your plants a thorough watering, so water penetrates deep into the soil.

Your aim is to establish strong, deep root systems which are water-efficient and drought tolerant. Over-watering leaches nutrients from the soil and creates excessive growth, less flowering and shorter-lived plants.

Be mindful of current water restrictions and the prescribed times allocated to gardeners for watering.

Mulch and gravels

A layer of mulch added to your garden can reduce evaporative water loss by more than seventy percent.¹ Organic mulch keeps soil temperatures down, which benefits root density, suppresses weed growth, and helps to promote good soil structure and productivity.

Apply 5–10 cm of mulch or gravel, creating a bowl shape around the plant to help retain water. To avoid plant disease, keep mulch away from plant stems.

¹SA Department of Environment and Natural Resources – www.backyards4wildlife.com.au

Fertilising

Fertilisers aren't usually needed with local native plants. If you decide to fertilise, seek advice from your local nursery, as products with high levels of phosphorus can harm some local native plants. You'll want to avoid rapid growth that makes your local plants leggy, weak and short-lived.

Maintaining your local plants

Pruning is beneficial for many local plants. Most species will appreciate a light trim to keep their shape, promote new growth and encourage flowering. Pruning is best done after flowering, usually late spring or early summer. Young plants can be pruned lightly and regularly. Older plants can be refreshed with a more extensive prune after flowering. Replace old plants that die or become straggly.

Potted local plants need a little more care than those planted out in gardens. Water your pot plants more regularly in summer, and apply a low-phosphorus fertiliser in spring and summer (check with your local nursery which product is best). Don't over-apply fertiliser as it can harm local native plants. Some plants may need re-potting in the future.

Sustainable landscaping

You can help the environment by using sustainable and locally sourced materials, and avoid materials taken from natural ecosystems, such as moss rocks, river stones, fallen logs and red gum mulch. More information on sustainable landscaping can be found on the Botanic Gardens website.

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/Learn/Sustainable_Landscapes_Project

More information

For further information on establishing local native plants and how you can make your garden wildlife friendly, visit www.backyards4wildlife.com.au

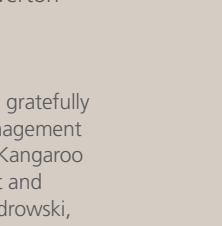
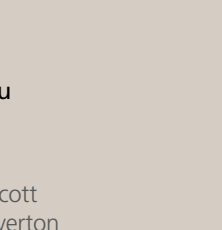
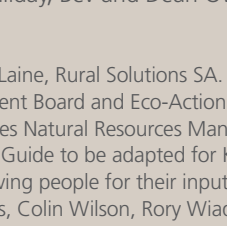
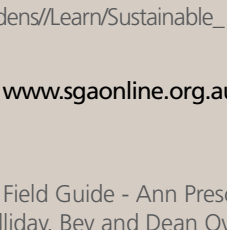
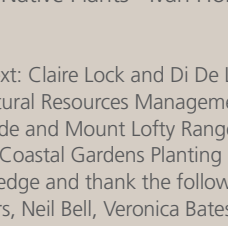
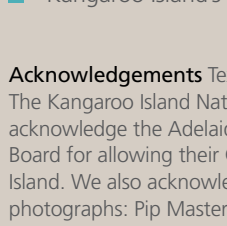
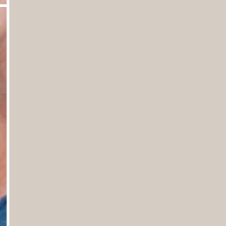
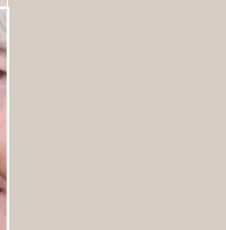
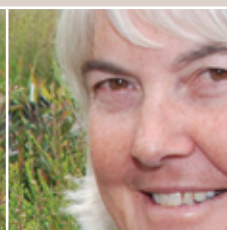
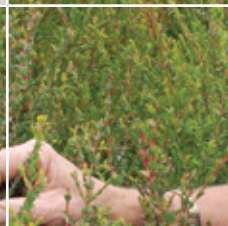
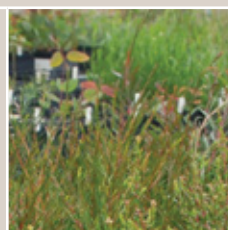
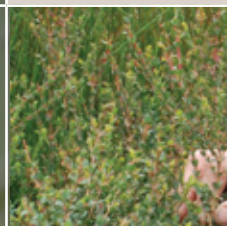
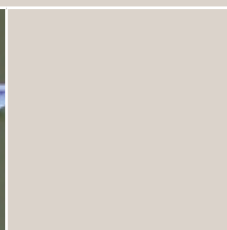
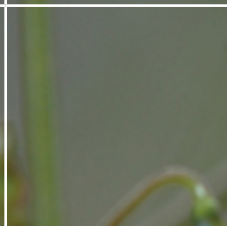
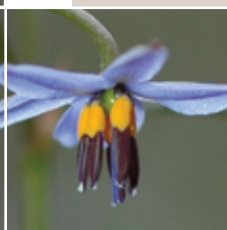


Sourcing local coastal plants

Kangaroo Island is fortunate to have nurseries that stock local coastal plants, including the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board's Seedbank and Nursery.

Ask your local plant nursery for plants that are of 'local provenance' meaning plants grown from seeds or cuttings collected from your local area, catchment or neighbourhood. These plants have adapted to local conditions, so are the best plants for your garden.

You can often place orders in advance with local nurseries in winter – spring to collect for late autumn planting. Advance orders are recommended if you want larger quantities of plants, or don't want to substitute if species aren't available. Many growers are also able to supply plants for commercial orders such as councils, schools, other nurseries, industries and landscapers.



Useful resources

These resources are complementary to this guide. From picturesque images of our local coastline, to more in depth gardening resource material, they may provide further inspiration and information. Happy planting!

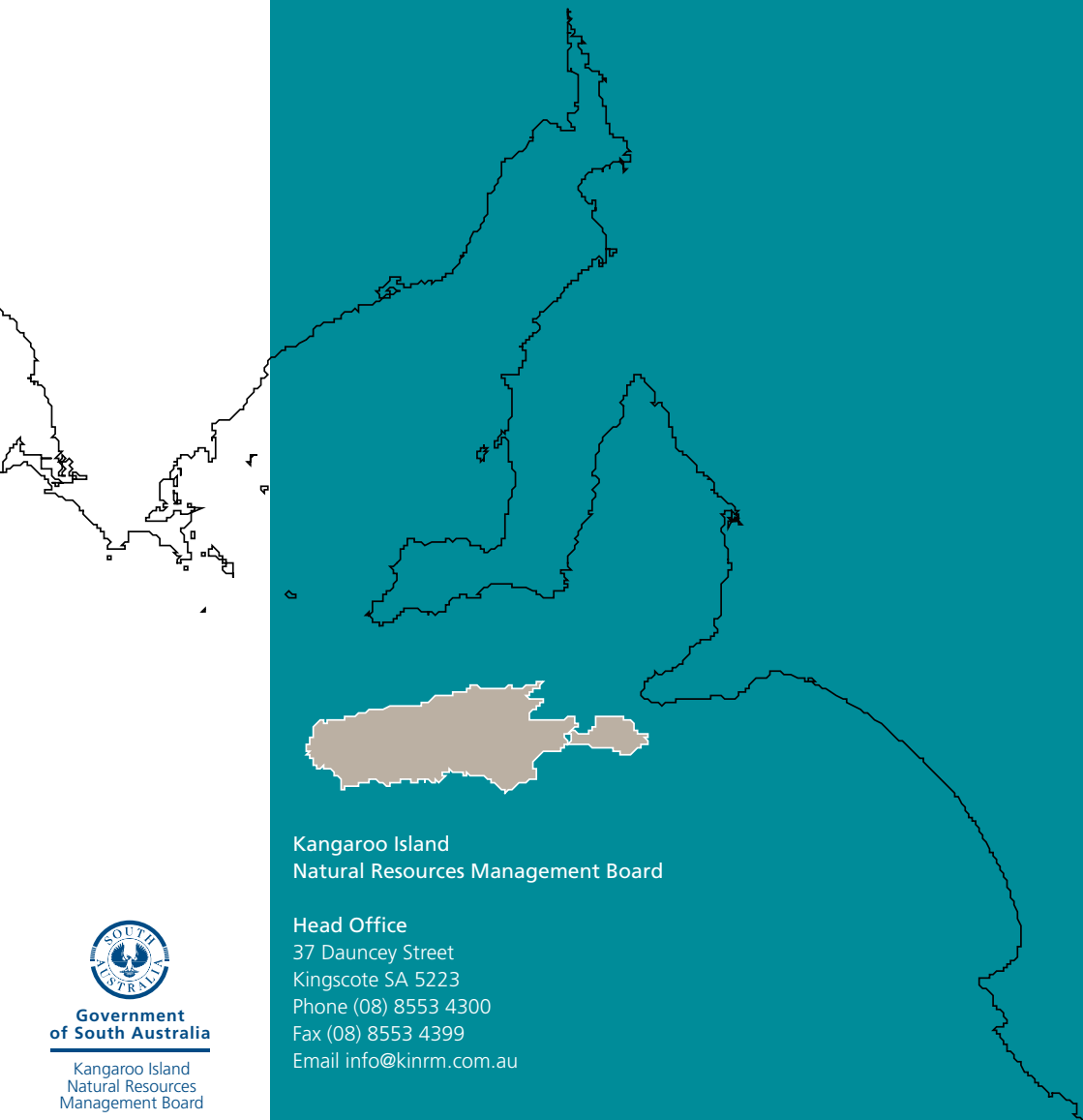
Internet

- Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board www.kinrm.sa.gov.au
- Check out the efforts of KI's award-winning environmental advocacy group Eco-Action www.eco-action.com.au
- On-line Native Vegetation Guide for Kangaroo Island Region (select 'coastal') www.plantguide.org.au
- Backyards for Wildlife www.backyards4wildlife.com.au
- State Flora www.stateflora.com.au
- Trees for Life www.treesforlife.org.au
- Garden Plants that are Known to Become Serious Coastal Weeds http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Conservation/Coastal_marine/Adelaides_Living_Beaches/Resources
- Sustainable Landscapes Project www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/Learn/Sustainable_Landscapes_Project
- Sustainable Gardening Australia website www.sgaonline.org.au

Books

- It's Blue with Five Petals-Kangaroo Island Field Guide - Ann Prescott
- Kangaroo Island's Native Plants - Ivan Holliday, Bev and Dean Overton

Acknowledgements Text: Claire Lock and Di De Laine, Rural Solutions SA. The Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board and Eco-Action gratefully acknowledge the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board for allowing their Coastal Gardens Planting Guide to be adapted for Kangaroo Island. We also acknowledge and thank the following people for their input and photographs: Pip Masters, Neil Bell, Veronica Bates, Colin Wilson, Rory Wiadrowski, Ron Sandercock, Doug Fotheringham, Nick Fewster, Ben Moulton, Caroline Taylor, Tony Flaherty, Sharn Lucas, Todd Berkinshaw, Phil Elson, Bill Doyle, and Matthew Baker (Tasmanian Herbarium).



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