



# Coastal Gardens

A planting guide



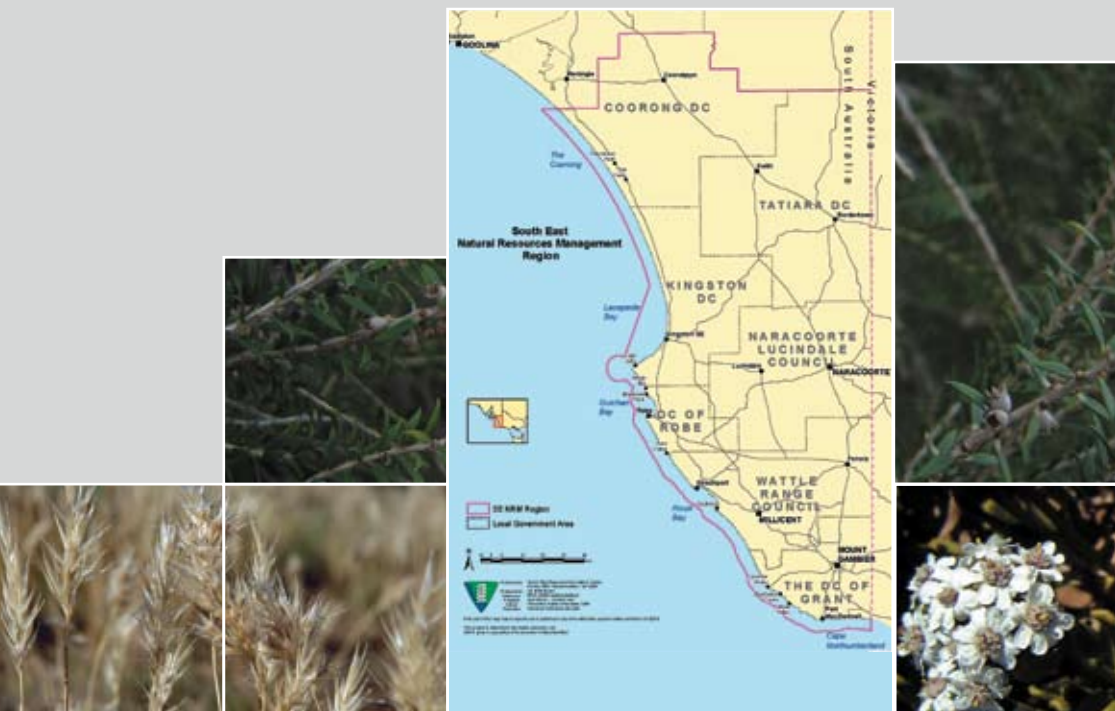
Government  
of South Australia

South East  
Natural Resources  
Management Board

# Healthy & attractive landscapes

This guide provides simple yet inspiring garden advice for people living in the coastal regions of the South East of South Australia.

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# Using this planting guide

## Getting started

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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.

However, there is good news! You *can* have a garden that copes with our tough climate without compromising on style, 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 styles, 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 future 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. Its an easy, rewarding way to look after our environment. We hope you enjoy discovering local coastal plants. Happy gardening!





# Benefits of local plants

## What is a local plant?

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

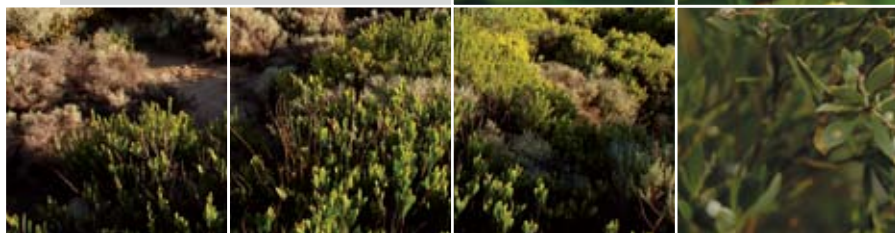
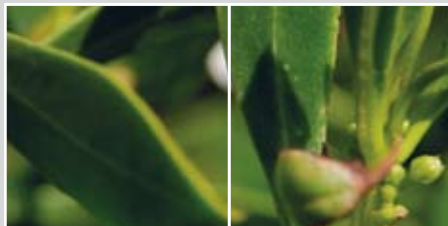
## Why use local plants?

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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, attracting native fauna such as birds, butterflies and lizards.
- Saves you money and time. Using waterwise plants can save you up to 50% of your garden water use each year.
- Adaptable for various landscaping styles, 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 and ideal for weekenders who are looking for "easy care" gardens. 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 neighbourhood and the environment.







## How to use local plants

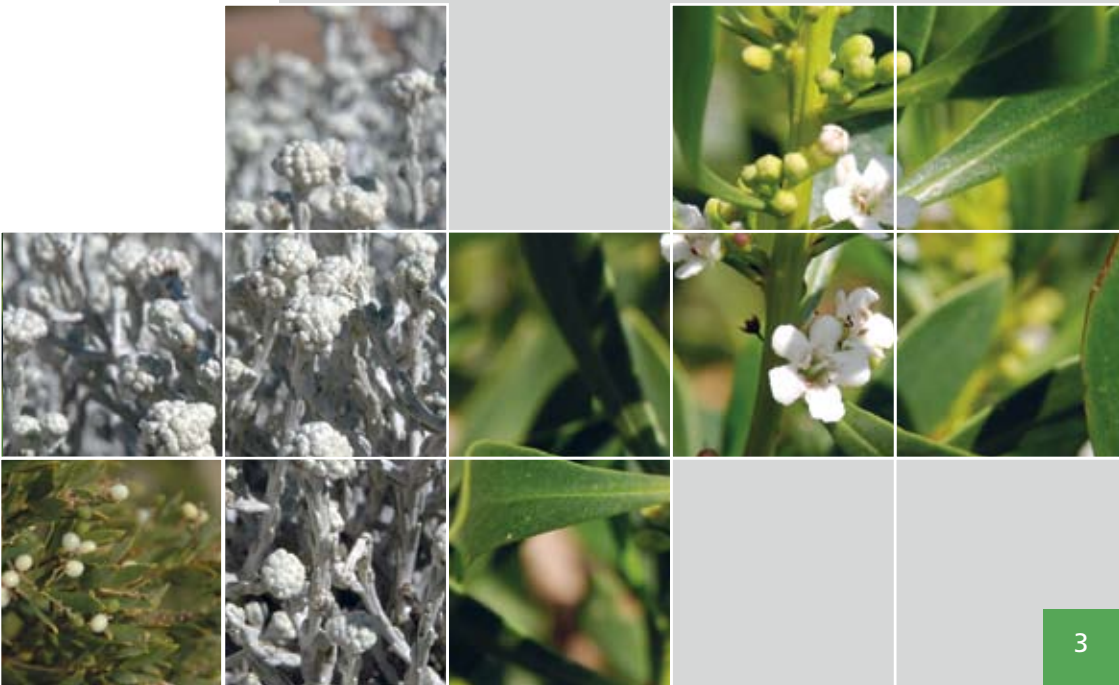
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Local plants can be incorporated into your garden the same way as exotic plants. They are suited to all landscaping styles, from formal to Japanese, contemporary to natural cottage, to courtyards and pots.

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.

This guide also shows you which local species to use for particular effects, and recommends environmentally friendly alternatives to potentially invasive coastal weeds.

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





# Garden escapes

## Are you harbouring known villains?

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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 compete with 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.
- 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.

## How do garden plants become coastal invaders?

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# You can help!

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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 your local council before you plant into natural coastal environments .
- Join a local environmental group to learn more about our coast and lend a hand! Call the SE NRM Board on 8724 6000 or go to [www.senrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.senrm.sa.gov.au) for information on how to get involved.



# Trees & tall shrubs



**DON'T PLANT** a garden escape! 



## Coast Tea-tree

*Leptospermum laevigatum*

(East coast Australia & Tasmania)

Flowers: August to November

Reproduces: seed (woody capsule)

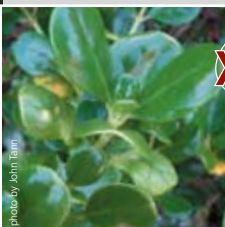


Photo by John Iann



## Shiny Leaf *Coprosma repens*

(New Zealand)

Flowers: summer

Reproduces: orange-red berries  
autumn to winter (seed)



## Cotoneaster

*Cotoneaster sp.*

(China) Flowers: spring/summer

Reproduces: clusters of small  
berries in autumn/winter



## English Broom

*Cytisus scoparius*

(Europe) Flowers: late spring

Reproduces: seed pods eject  
seeds in summer



## Italian Buckthorn *Rhamnus alaternus*

(Mediterranean)

Flowers: winter to early spring

Reproduces: fleshy black fruits,  
will reshoot from base if damaged





## GROW ME instead



### **Drooping Sheoak** *Allocasuarina verticillata*

Tree growing between 5–8m. Long weeping branchlets, grey-green. Interesting cone-like fruit. Well suited to Japanese gardens. Use as feature tree or for screening. Birds such as parrots and cockatoos are attracted to fruit. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



### **South Australian Blue Gum** *Leucoxydon megalocarpa*

A spreading tree, 4 to 10m high. Dark, glossy green leaves, white, pink or red flowers from March to December. Suitable for coastal exposure, and drought resistant. Moderately fast grower and responds well to pruning.



### **Dryland tea tree** *Melaleuca lanceolata*

Medium sized small tree to 7m high, green narrow leaves. White to cream flowers in a bottle brush shape during summer. Fruit a spherical shape 4-5mm long.



### **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.



### **Sticky Hop-bush** *Dodonaea viscosa*

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.



### **Silver Banksia** *Banksia marginata*

Feature tree grows 3–5m. Leaves green on top, silver under. Large yellow flowers spring to autumn. Interesting foliage and seed pods. Attracts birds and butterflies. Full-sun. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.

# Medium Shrubs



**DON'T PLANT** a garden escape! ❌



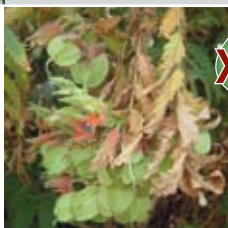
## Teneriffe Daisy

*Argyranthemum Frutescens* Ssp. *foeniculaceum*

(Canary Islands)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed



## Tufted Honey-flower

*Melianthus comosus*

(South Africa)

Flowers: late spring to mid summer

Reproduces: seed



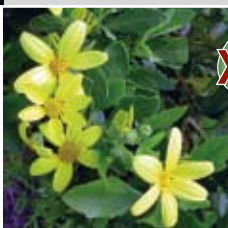
## Myrtle-leaf Milkwort

*Polygala myrtifolia*

(South Africa)

Flowers: late winter to spring.

Reproduces: seed



## Boneseed

*Chrysanthemoides Monilifera* Ssp. *monilifera*

(South Africa)

Flowers: late autumn to winter

Reproduces: fleshy fruit (seed)



## New Zealand Karo *Pittosporum crassifolium*

(New Zealand)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: flowers develop into seed pods which release sticky seeds in autumn.



## 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. Benefits from pruning. Screening plant, foliage contrast. Full-sun to semi-shade.



### **Sea Box**

*Alyxia buxifolia*

Shrub to 2m high, thick green leaves and white flowers between spring and autumn. Tolerates coastal exposure.



### **Holly Grevillea**

*Grevillea aquifolium*

Variable in size occurring as scrambling plant or shrub reaching about 1 to 2m high. Foliage has sharp points and red, greenish/yellow flowers "toothbrush" shaped. Honey eating birds are attracted to the flowers.



### **Coast Beard-heath** *Leucopogan parviflorus*

Densely foliated shrub to 2m high with dark green oblong leaves and white flowers from July to September. Fruit round, white and edible during spring and summer. Tolerates coastal conditions.



### **Round Leaf Wattle** *Acacia acinacea*

Shrub to 2m. Small rounded green leaves (phyllodes). Bright yellow wattle flowers from May to September. Provides burst of colour over winter. Weeping habit, well-suited to Japanese style garden. Lives 8–10 years. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.

# Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



**DON'T PLANT** a garden escape! ❌



**Gazania** *Gazania* Sp.

(South Africa)

Flowers: most of year, mainly spring to autumn

Reproduces: seed, vegetatively



**White Arctotis** *Arctotis stoechadifolia*

(South Africa)

Flowers: spring to summer

Reproduces: seed



**Hottentot Fig** *Carpobrotus edulis*

(South Africa)

Flowers: late summer to winter

Reproduces: fleshy fruit in summer,  
also spreads by vegetative production



**Beach Daisy** *Arctotheca populifolia*

(South Africa)

Flowers: winter to summer

Reproduces: seed



**Succulents**

(tropical & sub-tropical dry regions)

Flowers: various

Reproduces: most species will also spread  
by vegetative growth, some set seed



## GROW ME instead



### **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.



### **Coast Bonefruit** *Threlkeldia diffusa*

Small shrub or groundcover to 20cm high, 1m wide. Small fleshy leaves, green with purple tinge. Soil stabiliser. Tolerates saline conditions, clay. Full-sun.



### **Creeping Boobialla** *Myoporum parvifolium*

Ground runner 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.



### **Seaberry Saltbush** *Rhagodia candolleana*

Spreading shrub to several metres wide with fleshy green leaves and small clusters of white flowers. Fruit ripens to a deep red from summer to autumn and are globular.



### **Thyme Rice Flower**

*Pimelea serpyllifolia*

Small, compact shrub to about 50cm high, small and crowded foliage. Flowers are greenish yellow hidden amongst leaves.



# Ground covers, herbs & 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, colour contrast. Responds well to regular pruning. Contrast plant. Full-sun.



### **Native Pelargonium** *Pelargonium australe*

Herb to knee high. Large green velvety leaves, pale pink flowers with purple stripe occur spring to summer. Pretty plant, great in cottage or bushland garden. Can plant in pots. Prune after flowering. 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 bush-land garden settings. Attracts birds. Full-sun to shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



### **Native Pigface** *Carpobrotus rossii*

Thick, fleshy ground cover. 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.



## GROW ME instead



### Sand Ixodia

*Ixodia achillaeoides* Ssp. (*Arenicola*)

Low, reclining shrub 35 to 55cm high. Flat, dark green leaves and white, papery flowers during summer. Is rated as vulnerable under Commonwealth legislation.



### Paper Flower

*Thomasia petalocalyx*

Small shrub to 25cm, soft, furry appearance with lilac cup-shaped flowers from October to January. Requires little attention once plant is established.

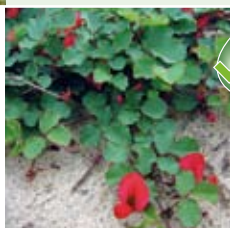


### Dune Fan-flower

*Scaevola calendulacea*

Sprawling leafy creeper with thick and hairy foliage.

Fan shaped flowers with 5 petals, pale blue colour most of the year and a purple coloured berry.



### Running Postman *Kennedia prostrata*

Prostrate runner to 2m. Leaves pale green, bright red pea-flowers winter to summer. Eye-catching flowers, use as an attractive ground cover or plant in small to large garden pots (looks great in a feature urn). Light-shade preferred.

# Grasses & Sedges



**DON'T PLANT** a garden escape! 



**Couch Grass** *Cynodon dactylon*

(tropics world-wide)

Flowers: late spring to early summer

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

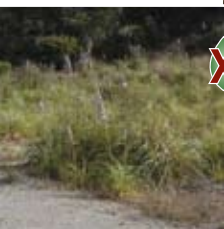


**Fountain Grass** *Pennistenum setaceum*

(East Africa & Middle East)

Flowers: summer to autumn.

Reproduces: via seed.

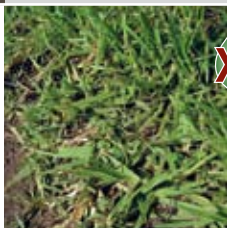


**Pampas Grass** *Cortaderia selloana*

(South America)

Flowers: during autumn

Reproduces: seeds are produced during winter and spring.



**Kikuyu** *Pennisetum clandestinum*

(East Asia)

Flowers: summer to autumn.

Reproduces: vegetative reproduction (eg. lawn clippings)



**Buffalo Grass** *Stenotaphrum secundatum*

(Southern U.S.A.)

Reproduces: rhizomes and trailing stems produce roots.



## GROW ME instead



### 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.



### Wallaby Grass *Austrodanthonia* sp.

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*

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



### Coast Tussock-grass *Poa poiformis*

Tussock grass growing to knee high. Thin blue-green leaves, brown-yellow flower heads. Tight foliage. Great in small or large group plantings, also rockeries, borders. Good table pot-plant. Full-sun.



### Spiny-head Mat-rush

*Lomandra longifolia*

Leaves are glossy green and flat growing up to 1m long. Creamy yellow flower clusters in late winter and spring, fruiting occurs 1 to 2 months after flowering. Very high tolerance to dryness.



### Blue Flax-lily *Dianella Revoluta* Var. *brevicaulis*

Grows to about 1m high with long, green leaves with wiry flower stalks rising above the foliage. Flowers from spring to summer with deep blue to purple flower heads. Very hardy with a wide moisture and temperature range.

# Climbers



**DON'T PLANT** a garden escape! 



**Bridal Creeper** *Asparagus asparagoides*

(South Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: red berries late spring, also spreading underground root system (rhizomes)



**Lavatory Creeper** *Dipogon lignosus*

(South Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: seed pods in summer, also spreads by underground root system (rhizomes)



**Bridal Veil** *Asparagus declinatus*

(South Africa)

Flowers: winter

Reproduces: green/blue berries late winter/early spring, also spreading underground root system (rhizomes)



**Bluebell Creeper** *Sollya heterophylla*

(Western Australia)

Flowers: spring to summer

Reproduces: translucent grey-green sausage shaped berries form and darken as they ripen.



**English Ivy** *Hedera helix*

(Europe)

Flowers: Autumn

Reproduces: small, black berries during winter and horizontal stems root at nodes when they contact the soil.





## GROW ME instead



### **Native Lilac** *Hardenbergia violacea*

Climber or shrub with trailing & 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.



### **Sweet Appleberry** *Billardiera cymosa*

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.



### **Old Mans Beard**

*Clematis microphylla*

Scrambling vine or climber which covers other plants. Flowers are greenish cream, produced from August to September. At maturity fruits have a long tail of silky plume giving a soft, cotton appearance.



### **Climbing Lignum**

*Muehlenbeckia adpressa*

Climber or creeper covering large areas of ground. Light green egg-shaped leaves with crisp margins, small green flower clusters.



### **Bower Spinach**

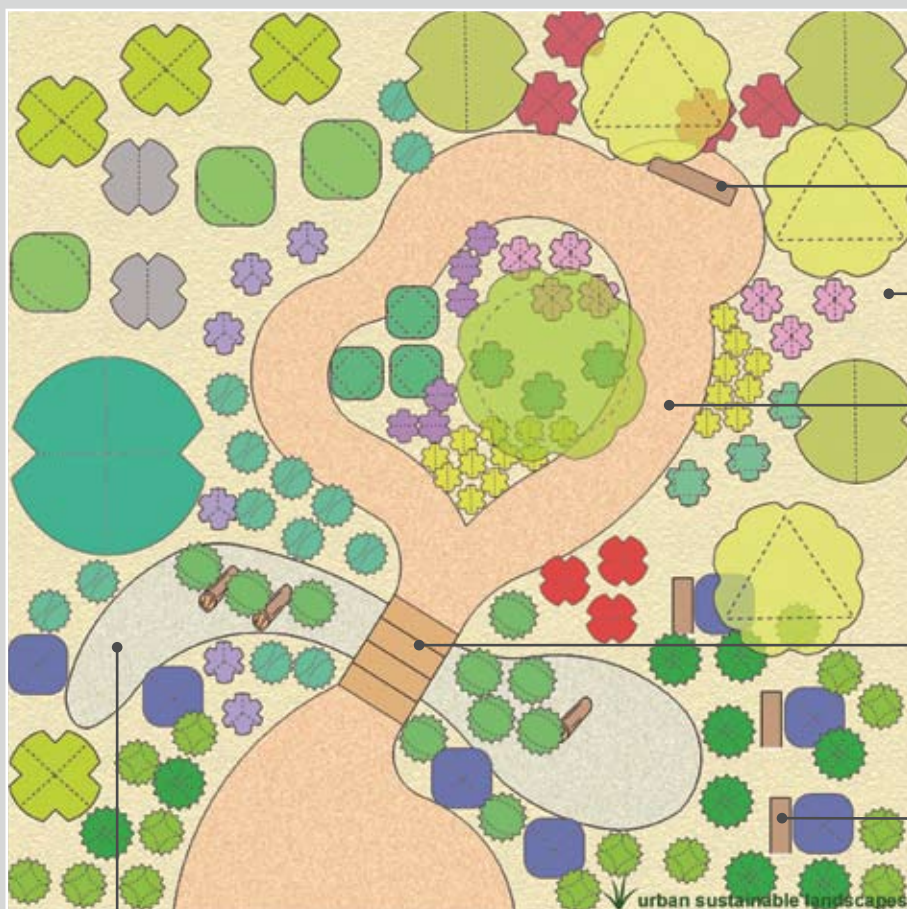
*Tetragonia implexicoma*

Scrambling shrub which often climbs over other vegetation. Succulent leaves 5cm long, flowers small and yellow during August to November. Fruits are round and orange to red, ripening to black.

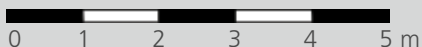


# Natural cottage garden design

A natural cottage garden is easy to achieve with local coastal plants as many species flower in winter, providing a colourful garden year-round. 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.



Swale with 14mm quartzite gravel and habitat logs





— Bench

— Mulch

— White wash sustainable pebble

— Flat sleepers set in gravel to give boardwalk appearance

— Recycled hardwood timber post, upright 2m high

### Trees & tall shrubs



Blue Gum



Common Boobialla



Sticky Hop-bush



Silver Banksia

### Medium Shrubs



Coast Daisy-bush



Holly Grevillia

### Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Cushion Bush



Native Fuchsia



Austral Trefoil



Thyme  
Rice Flower



Native Pelargonium



Coast Fan-flower



Muntries



Sand Ixodia



Seaberry Saltbush

### Grasses & sedges



Wallaby Grass



Blue Flax-lily



Coast Spear-grass



Knobby Club-rush

### Climbers

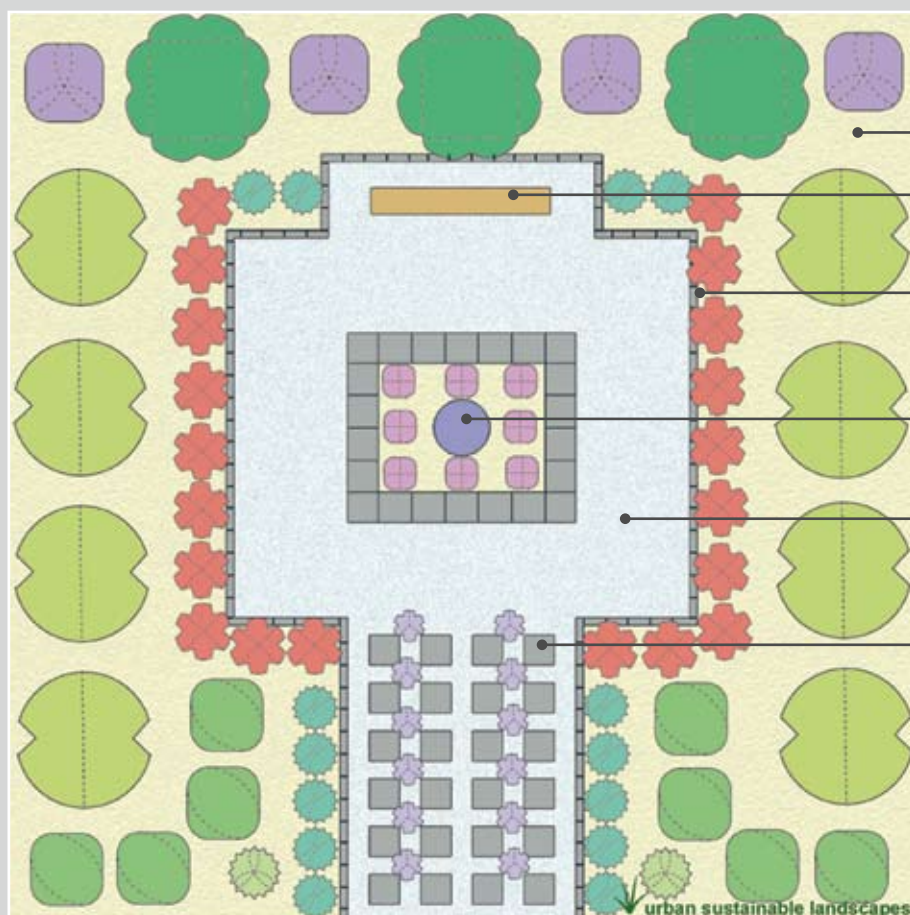


Native Lilac



## Formal garden design

A number of local coastal plants can be grown into clipped hedges or shapes to form the basis of the formal garden. Sedges and grasses can be used in mass plantings and accent borders. Use local climbers or trailing plants in a feature urn, terrace or retaining wall. To achieve a formal garden style, emphasise symmetry and borders and use gravel or sustainable pebbles to create and highlight landscaping features.



0 1 2 3 4 5 m



- Mulch
- Bench
- 110mm x 220mm linear paver divider
- Birdbath feature
- 14mm dolomite gravel
- 500mm x 500mm charcoal pavers

## Trees & tall shrubs



Dryland  
Tea Tree



Sticky  
Hop-bush

## Medium Shrubs



Cushion  
Fanflower

## Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs



Coast  
Fan-flower



Native  
Fuchsia



Native  
Pelargonium



Native  
Pigface

## Grasses & sedges



Spiny-head  
Mat-rush



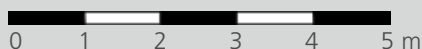
Blue Flax-lily





# Japanese style garden design

Local coastal plants are well suited to the minimalist style and reflective feeling of Japanese gardens. Aim to create a garden that mimics the natural balance and flow of nature. Clumps of local grasses can be used to compliment raked gravel areas. Incorporate natural elements such as plants with graceful habit, water features, stepping stones and gravel areas to achieve your Japanese-style garden.



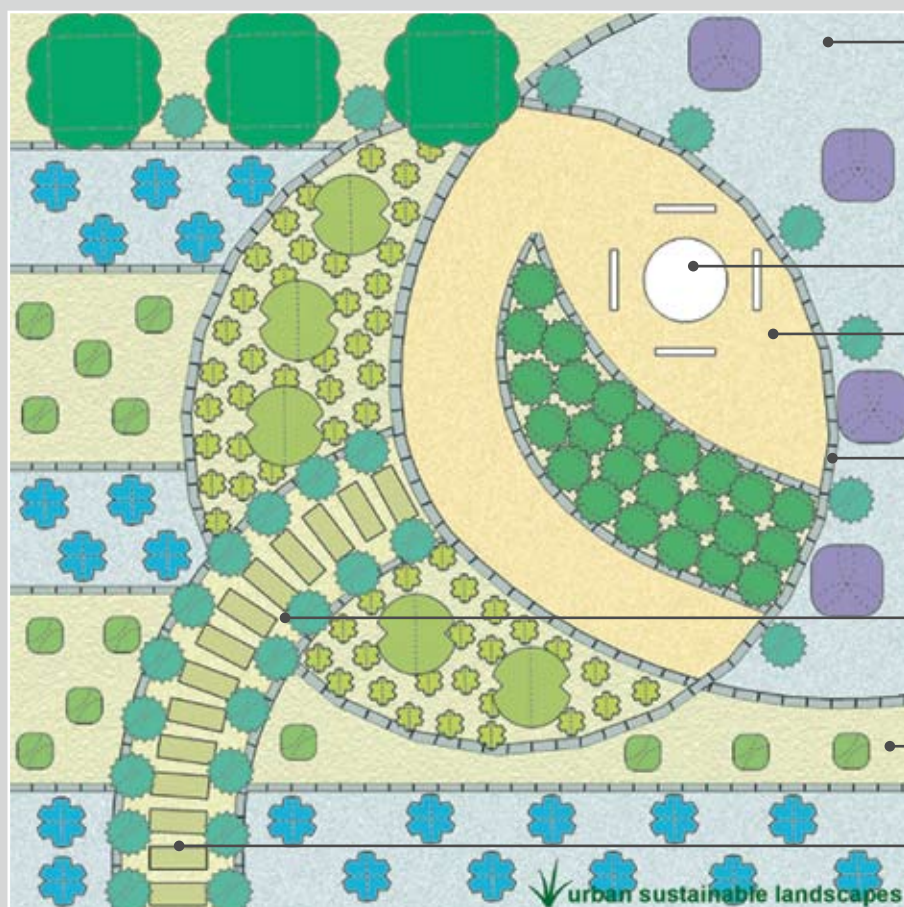


	<p><b>Trees &amp; tall shrubs</b></p> <div data-bbox="306 272 445 416"></div> <p data-bbox="325 419 426 470">Drooping Sheoak</p>
<p>— Mulch</p> <p>— Recycled wooden bench</p> <p>— 110mm x 220mm linear paver divider</p>	<p><b>Medium Shrubs</b></p> <div data-bbox="325 536 432 644"></div> <p data-bbox="312 651 445 702">Coast Beard-heath</p>
<p>— Feature sculpture</p> <p>— Clay or plastic lined wet/dry stormwater fed pond coated with quartzite gravel at a maximum of 200mm depth</p>	<p><b>Ground covers, herbs &amp; small shrubs</b></p> <div data-bbox="351 788 404 836"></div> <p data-bbox="312 853 441 901">Native Pelargonium</p> <div data-bbox="499 775 564 836"></div> <p data-bbox="486 853 572 901">Cushion Bush</p> <div data-bbox="645 775 712 836"></div> <p data-bbox="636 863 725 890">Muntries</p> <div data-bbox="799 775 863 836"></div> <p data-bbox="770 863 900 890">Paper Flower</p> <div data-bbox="953 775 1014 836"></div> <p data-bbox="930 853 1023 901">Creeping Boobialla</p>
<p>— 14mm quartzite gravel</p>	<p><b>Grasses &amp; sedges</b></p> <div data-bbox="348 991 404 1051"></div> <p data-bbox="329 1062 430 1110">Knobby Club-rush</p> <div data-bbox="497 991 553 1051"></div> <p data-bbox="493 1062 568 1110">Blue Flax-lily</p> <div data-bbox="645 991 701 1051"></div> <p data-bbox="628 1062 740 1110">Spiny-head Mat-rush</p> <div data-bbox="796 991 852 1051"></div> <p data-bbox="757 1062 893 1110">Coast Tussock-grass</p>
<p>— Table &amp; chairs</p> <p>— 400mm x 400mm charcoal pavers</p>	<p><b>Climbers</b></p> <div data-bbox="340 1198 413 1275"></div> <p data-bbox="320 1305 434 1356">Sweet Appleberry</p> <div data-bbox="491 1198 566 1275"></div> <p data-bbox="479 1305 580 1356">Old Mans Beard</p>











## Contemporary garden design

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 for these 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 the contemporary garden design.



0 1 2 3 4 5 m



	<b>Trees &amp; tall shrubs</b> <div>   </div> <div> <div>Dryland Tea Tree</div> <div>Sticky Hop-bush</div> </div>
— Dolomite gravel	<b>Medium Shrubs</b> <div>   </div> <div> <div>Cushion Fanflower</div> <div>Sea Box</div> </div>
— Table & chairs	<b>Ground covers, herbs &amp; small shrubs</b> <div>   </div> <div> <div>Thyme Rice Flower</div> <div>Paper Flower</div> </div>
— White wash sustainable pebble	
— 110 x 220mm linear paver divider	<b>Grasses &amp; sedges</b> <div>   </div> <div> <div>Blue Flax-lily</div> <div>Knobby Club-rush</div> </div>
— 14mm quartzite gravel	
— Mulch	
— 800mm x 300mm paver stepping stones	



# Growing local coastal plants

## When to plant

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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

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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 creating excessive growth, less flowering and shorter-lived plants.

A layer of mulch added to your garden can reduce evaporative water loss by more than 70%!<sup>1</sup> Organic mulch keeps soil temperatures down, which benefits root density, suppresses weed growth, and helps to promote good soil structure and productivity.

## Mulch & gravels

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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.

<sup>1</sup>SA Department for Environment & Heritage – [www.backyards4wildlife.com.au](http://www.backyards4wildlife.com.au)







## Fertilising

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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

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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.

## More information

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For further information NRM FLORA is a database of plants native to the South East. It is searchable by either plant name, use, or geographic suitability, and provides both full colour pictures and detailed descriptions of each plant, their characteristics and uses. Visit [se.nrmspace.com.au](http://se.nrmspace.com.au)



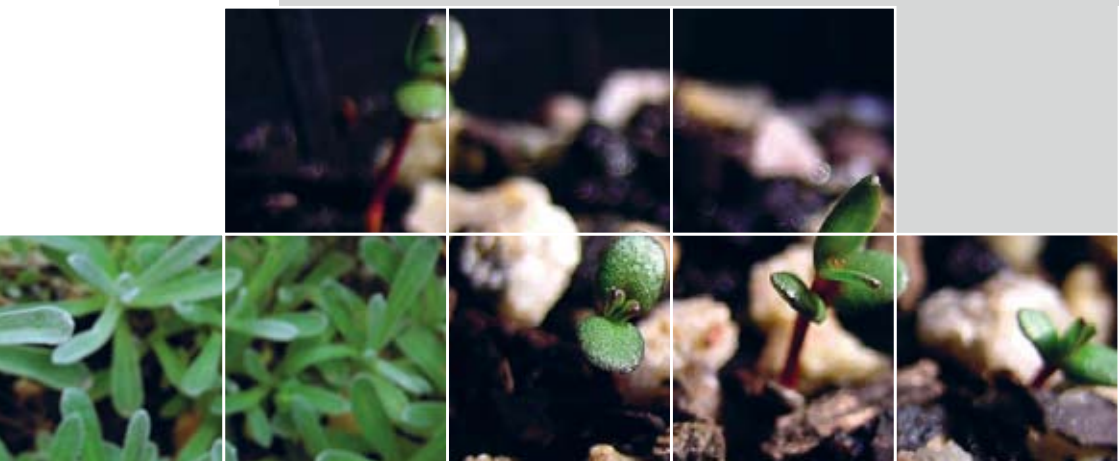


## Sourcing local coastal plants

Unfortunately, not all nurseries around the South East stock a variety of local coastal plants. 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 late spring – early summer 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.

Alternatively, contact the SE Natural Resource Management Board on 8724 6000.



# 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

- NRM Flora [se.nrmspace.com.au](http://se.nrmspace.com.au)
- [www.senrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.senrm.sa.gov.au)
- Your local council's website
- Garden Plants that are Known to Become Serious Coastal Weeds  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/pdfs/no34.pdf](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/pdfs/no34.pdf)
- Sustainable Gardening Australia website [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)

## Books

- What South East Native Plant is that? - Neville Bonney
- Common Native Plants of the Coorong Region - Neville Bonney
- What South East Plant is That? - Neville Bonney

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