

Grow Me Instead!

A Guide for Gardeners in the Gippsland area



WELLINGTON SHIRE,
EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE
& LATROBE CITY



Introduction

Weeds are a serious threat to primary production and biodiversity, displacing native species and contributing to land and water degradation. Weeds reduce farm productivity by taking up space, particularly when they are unpalatable to stock.

It has been estimated that weeds cost Victorian agriculture more than \$360 million each year!¹ That doesn't include costs to public land managers such as local councils or the cost to the environment.

Many of our worst weeds have come from the garden by jumping the back fence and establishing in our waterways and bushland. Birds and foxes eat the fruits of plants such as Cotoneaster and Privet, which they can carry kilometres away. Seeds also blow long distances in the wind and wash down drains into waterways, where they grow and spread.

Of all our noxious weeds, garden plants make up 30 per cent and in Victoria alone, we have about 600 garden escapees that are now weeds!²

Garden escapees are very good at out-competing local plants as they establish quickly from seed or dumped garden waste, and take up space, nutrients, light and water. Native plants can become weeds too. Plants such as Cootamundra Wattle have escaped cultivation in all states of Australia. Once established, garden escapees are very difficult and expensive to control or eradicate.



The seed head or 'flower' of native Windmill Grass (*Chloris truncata*)

Photo: Mick Cincotta

The purpose of this booklet is to educate gardeners and nurseries about garden escapees in an effort to reduce their effects on our environment. There are many garden escapees available for sale in Victoria, some of them illegally. All it takes is a little forethought and care when planning your garden to make sure your beautiful plants are not going to be the next Bridal Creeper.

¹ Source: Department of Primary Industries

² Source: Low, T. (2001) *Feral Future*. Penguin Books



'Pink Bindweed' (*Convolvulus erubescens*) Australian native
Photo: Annie Lamb



Hop Goodenia
(*Goodenia ovata*)
Australian native
Photo: Annie Lamb



A word from the Nursery Industry

Nursery & Garden Industry Victoria is the peak industry body for the nursery and garden industry in Victoria. We represent those businesses that grow and sell plants and others associated with this very important industry. As an industry we have an important role to play in the sustainability of Australia's natural environment. We take this responsibility seriously and for many years now, have been working with nurseries, government and the community to reduce the number of potentially invasive plants that are in your gardens, parks and the natural environment.

Crucial to this important work is the identification and recognition of invasive plants and the replacement of these plants with those that we know will not 'jump' the fence.

This 'Grow Me Instead' booklet will serve both the residents and the natural environment of the Gippsland region well. Enjoy your gardening and remember if you are in doubt then ask your local nursery or garden centre.



David Mathews
NGIV President





Sustainable Gardening

Sustainable Gardening is all about gardening in a way that minimises the negative impact our gardening practices have on the natural environment, while maximising the positive impacts we can have.

Gardening can have a positive benefit to the health of our environment. If we plant local plants we provide food and shelter for birds and butterflies. By conserving water in the garden we help maintain water levels in our reservoirs. If we reduce the use of chemicals in the garden we help to keep our stormwater runoff into creeks and streams chemical-free. By composting our household and garden organic waste we can reduce the amount of waste going into landfill and therefore reduce the amount of greenhouse gas produced. If we purchase renewable resources for the garden instead of non-renewable resources, we can help to protect our old growth forests and river ecosystems.

It is easy to create beautiful gardens that suit our local climate and soil and have a low impact on our natural environment.

Mary Trigger
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Gardening Australia



How You Can Make a Difference

There are simple things that you can do as a home or commercial gardener to prevent garden plants jumping the back fence into bushland and creeks.

- Remove invasive plants from your garden and replace them with natives or non-invasive exotics.
- Don't dump your garden waste in the bush, creeks or on the roadside, as it will spread and take over. Dispose of it properly by taking it to the tip. (Plants can be placed in garbage bags and left in the sun for a month to kill them before taking them to the tip).
- Watch for, and report, garden plants that are invading your local area.
- Prune plants that have the potential to spread before seeds set. For example, cut the heads off Agapanthus before they dry and set seed.
- Visit your local nursery and ask for plants that won't spread, such as those native to the local area, or talk to your council's weed officer.

Planning your garden:

Think about the habits of what you are about to plant. Weeds are usually species that are hardy, frost or drought-tolerant, seed prolifically, grow in disturbed areas or hybridise naturally. If you see any of these features on the plant tag, ask if it is likely to spread or take over and find something that won't get out of control.



Weeds are everyone's responsibility and yours doesn't stop at the garden fence.

This ivy plant is jumping the back fence and creeping into bushland
Photo: Annie Lamb

Contacts

Latrobe City Council
www.latrobe.vic.gov.au
1300 367 700

East Gippsland Shire Council
www.egipps.vic.gov.au
1300 555 886

Wellington Shire Council
Environmental Services
1300 366 244
www.wellington.vic.gov.au

Sustainable Gardening Australia
03 9850 8165
www.sgaonline.org.au

Nursery and Garden Industry of Victoria
03 9576 0599
www.ngiv.com.au

Weeds Australia
www.weeds.org.au

For a list of declared noxious weeds:
www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Federal Department of Environment and Heritage
www.deh.gov.au



This creek is being choked by weeds from dumped garden waste, which is then being transported downstream to invade new areas.
Photo: Annie Lamb

KEY



Denotes indigenous plant (locally native)



Denotes Australian native plant



Denotes exotic plant



Cootamundra Wattle

Acacia baileyana—Australian Native Plant

Very popular garden wattle due to its silvery-grey foliage and mass of yellow ball shaped flowers. Widely cultivated and available in nurseries.

Very invasive outside its natural range.

- Seeds are spread by birds and wind, and are long-lived in the soil
- Invades drier sites such as woodlands, grasslands and heath lands
- Will re-sprout after a fire from soil-stored seed, this makes access easier for other control methods

Photo: Annie Lamb

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Jacaranda Tree

Jacaranda species

With more than 50 species of Jacaranda, there are plenty to choose from. They have masses of purple-lilac flowers over summer, carpeting the ground when they fall. Jacarandas grow into tall trees, are fast growing and prefer well-drained soil and a sunny position.



Photo: © 1999, Nova-Norwood

Buxton Gum

Eucalyptus crenulata

If it's the blue-grey foliage you like about Cootamundra Wattle, then Buxton Gum is for you. It has beautiful blue-grey leaves that are widely used in floristry, with lots of white to cream flowers in spring. Grows up to 8m and is readily grown from seed. Contrasts with other plants in the garden. Needs a damp spot and can handle inundation.



Did you know?

Buxton Gum is an Endangered plant found only in two reserves in Victoria, with about 130 plants in total. There are more plants in cultivation than there has ever been in the wild.

Photo: M Fagg © ANBG



Photo: Annie Lamb

Willows

Salix species

Admired for their weeping foliage and ability to stabilise banks, Willows have been widely planted along waterways. There are 32 naturalised taxa in Australia, which cause channel diversion, loss of stream capacity and degrade water quality and stream health. Most are listed as Weeds of National Significance.

- Seeds are spread by water and wind for many kilometres
- Plant fragments transported downstream will grow into another tree
- Readily hybridise with other Willow taxa

Note: Most species of willows are listed Declared Noxious Weeds in Victoria, meaning it is **illegal** to sell or trade them or material containing them.

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Pin Oak

Quercus palustris

This medium-sized tree grows to 20m and is commonly used as a street tree. It has a straight trunk and defoliates each winter upon maturity. It prefers being in wet soil over winter and has an extensive root system so don't plant it near a fence or footpath! Beautiful for autumn colour.



Photo: © 1999, Nova-Norwood

Weeping Willow

Salix babylonica

Corkscrew Willow

Salix matsudana
'*tortuosa*'

These species of willow are exempt from the Weeds of National Significance list, so they can be planted, but *please* be careful not to plant them in or near waterways or other willows as they can hybridise easily with other willow species. Make sure you check the species when you buy them.



Photo: Annie Lamb



Photo: www.etab.ac-caen.fr



Photos: Annie Lamb

Peppercorn Tree

Schinus ariera

Native to South America, this large tree is resistant to fire and drought, and can re-sprout if damaged. Widely planted in gardens and dry areas, it is available for sale from many nurseries. They are fast growing (almost a metre per year!) with a rapidly-developing root system.

- Female plants have bright red berries, spread by birds
- Seed is stored in the soil for many years
- Invades grassland, woodland and dry forest, as well as riparian areas in some cases.

This one of Australia's ten most serious invasive garden plants that is currently available for sale.

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Golden Honey Locust *Gleditsia 'sunburst'*



Medium to tall tree with bright yellow-green leaves that turn yellow in autumn. Has masses of white flowers in spring. Grows quickly, up to 8m and can be used as a hedge plant or grown as a tree. Needs full sun and is frost-tolerant.

Photo: © 1999, Nova-Norwood

Silky Oak *Grevillea robusta*



This Australian native is a favourite for street trees and backyards. Unlike most *Grevilleas*, Silky Oak grows up to 35m, is fast-growing and has beautiful golden-orange flowers up to 10cm long. It flowers from September to November and has small brown 'nuts' from December to March.

Photo: Annie Lamb



Photo: Annie Lamb



Photo: C Green © ANBG



Photos: Annie Lamb

Mirror Bush

Coprosma repens

Resistant to fire, drought and tolerates most soil types. Its resistance to salt spray has made it a popular garden plant in coastal environments, where it is an aggressive invader. There are several cultivars and all are invasive.

- Orange berries are spread by birds
- Spreads and smothers other plants
- Invades coastal heath lands and dune systems
- Canopy smothers all other vegetation
- Can grow prostrate, rooting where branches touch the ground

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Japanese Camellia *Camellia japonica*

Camellias have glossy green leaves similar to mirror bush and can be used as a hedge or informal fence. Japanese Camellia will display white to red flowers over the cooler months to give you some winter colour.

Each plant will grow to about 5m tall and 4m wide, with many cultivars available for different flower colours and forms.

Photo: © 1999, Nova-Norwood



Boobialla *Myoporum insulare*

Growing up to 6m, this leafy shrub has smooth green leaves and clusters of fragrant white flowers with purple spots. The purple-green fruit is edible. Boobialla prefers well drained sandy soils and is salt-tolerant, so well-suited to coastal areas. It also makes a great fire-retardant plant.



Photo: M Fagg
© ANBG

Rough Coprosma *Coprosma hirtella*

This shrub grows 1-2m tall and has dark green leaves that are rough to touch. Flowers are small and green, followed by red to orange

fruits in January to March. Needs moist, well-drained soil and a sheltered position.



Photo: M Fagg © ANBG



Photo: D Hardin ©
RBG Sydney



Photos:
Annie Lamb

Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster species

Popular garden plants grown for bright fruits and winter colour. Also grown as hedges last century. At least nine species of Cotoneaster have naturalised in Australia.

- Seeds are spread when birds eat the fruit
- Seeds and fruit are washed along water-courses
- Also spread by dumped garden waste
- Berries can be poisonous if eaten
- Can host fireblight bacterial disease

In the ACT some species are banned from sale but they are widely available in Victoria.

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Lilly Pilly *Acmena smithii*

Native to Gippsland, the Lilly Pilly is widely-available under many names and used as a screening plant as it grows quickly and can be formed into a hedge, but naturally grows as a bushy tree (up to 30m). It has glossy, dark green leaves and large pink or mauve berries. Many small, creamy flowers appear over the summer.

Photo: M Fagg © ANBG

Myrtus Luma *Luma apiculata*

This fast-growing plant can be clipped into dense, tall hedges, grown naturally or used for making topiaries. It flowers sporadically over the summer months, with small white flowers and has scented foliage. It can grow 3-4 feet in a year and is safe to plant near footpaths or fences. Needs full sun to light shade, and well-drained soils.



Photo: © 1999, Nova-Norwood

Hebe *Hebe species*

Hebes are easy growing shrubs with flowers of varying colours from pink to purple. They make ideal hedge or border plants and can grow to about 1m. Many cultivars are available from nurseries, with different habits and flower colour. They prefer full sun to part shade and well-drained soil.



Photo:
www.stanford.edu



Hawthorn is being removed from this revegetation site and can be seen in the background. Photo: Ian Bate



Photo: www.nature-diary.co.uk

Photo: www.diplomlandespflge.de

Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna

A prickly, deciduous shrub grown for hedges or cheap fences in the past. Often found near old homesteads. It forms dense, impenetrable thickets and can dominate the understorey of bushland.

- Produces large amounts of seed
- Berries spread by birds and stock
- Seeds are spread by farm machinery
- Forms suckers when roots are disturbed

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Lilly Pilly *Acmena smithii*

Native to Gippsland, the Lilly Pilly is widely-available under many names and used as a screening plant as it grows quickly and can be formed into a hedge, but naturally grows as a bushy tree (up to 30m). It has glossy, dark green leaves and large pink or mauve berries. Many small, creamy flowers appear over the summer.

Photo: M. Fagg © ARBG

Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa*

This shrub is native to most of Victoria. It grows 2-6m tall, has small, tea-



tree like leaves and clusters of fragrant, cream coloured flowers over summer. It has small spikes along the branches and prefers well-drained soil.



Photos: M. Fagg © ARBG

Japanese Maple *Acer palmatum*

Japanese Maples look amazing in autumn when the leaves turn an intense red and bring colour to the garden. Leaves are palm-shaped and are bright green over summer.

The first few years are fast -growing, but growth will slow down with maturity. Grows 6-7 metres high, in full sun to part shade and prefers well-drained soil.



Photo: © 1999, Nova-Norwood



Photo: Annie Lamb

Pampas Grass

Cortaderia jubata and *Cortaderia selloana*

This ornamental grass is widely planted in gardens and along driveways. It forms a huge tussock with tall, white, fluffy flower spikes. Tolerates salinity, is hardy and can quickly take over an area. It is a common weed along railway lines.

- Produces thousands of seeds each year
- Seeds spread long distances by wind
- Almost impossible to kill once established
- Mature plants need to be removed with machinery
- Invades coastal areas, roadsides and railway easements

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Red-fruited Saw Sedge *Gahnia sieberiana*

This clumping sedge grows to 1.5-3m, has long rough leaves and tall spikes of yellowish-brown to black flowers from October to January. Prefers moist soils for most of the year but it will tolerate drier soils once it is established.



Photo: B Walters © ASGAP



Photo: D Greig © ANBG

Kangaroo Paws *Anigozanthos* species

Native to Western Australia, Kangaroo Paws have a tussock of strappy leaves with tall flower stalks ranging from pink to yellow. There are many varieties in different colours and sizes readily available in nurseries. Grow in well-drained soil in a sunny position.



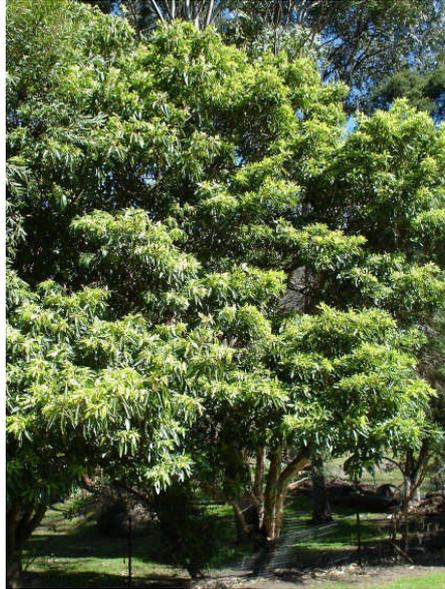
Photo: M.Fagg © ANBG



Photo: Eurobodalla Shire Council

Beach or Coast Tussock Grass *Poa poiformis* var. *poiformis*

This native tussock grass grows in coastal environments in Gippsland. It has a dense tuft of bluish leaves with tall flower spikes up to 90cm from September to January. Tolerates saline soils and salt spray and although it isn't as tall as Pampas Grass, it has a similar habit and makes a great ornamental grass.



Photos: Annie Lamb

Sweet Pittosporum

Pittosporum undulatum—Australian Native Plant

This is native to the Gippsland region, but in areas outside its natural range, it can become quite aggressive and smother out other plants, taking over the understorey of bushland. Sweet Pittosporum should only be removed if it is becoming invasive.

- Seeds spread by birds
- Has chemicals toxic to other plants, which prevents growth around it
- Spreads quickly to invade bushland and overtake understorey
- Shades out other plants

→ Remember, it is an offence to remove, destroy or lop ANY native vegetation without a permit. If in doubt, contact your local council.

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Rough-Fruit Pittosporum

Pittosporum revolutum

Native to East Gippsland (past Lakes Entrance), this tree grows 1-6m tall and has rough, orange berries with red seeds and cream to yellow flowers in spring. It will grow in shade and tolerate damp areas as it naturally grows in shady bushland and rainforest.



Photo: M Fagg © ANBG



Lilly Pilly

Acmena smithii

Native to Gippsland, the Lilly Pilly is widely available under many names and used as a screening plant as it grows quickly and can be formed into a hedge, but naturally grows as a bushy tree (up to 30m). It has glossy, dark green leaves and large pink or mauve berries. Many small, creamy flowers appear over the summer.

Photo: M Fagg © ANBG

Native Frangipani

Hymenosporum flavum

This rainforest tree grows to 8m, is hardy and fast growing. It has large cream to yellow flowers from March to November and soft, dark green leaves. It is highly-scented and will grow in shade or full sun.



Photo: Brian Walters © ASGAP



Photo: DPI



Photo: M Fagg © ANBG



Photo: Ian Bate

Bluebell Creeper

Sollya heterophylla—Australian Native Plant

This is a native to Western Australia but has become a weed outside its natural range. It is a vigorous climber, which twines around other plants, smothering them out. There are different forms available in nurseries, varying in flower colour. It is hardy and will grow as a shrub if there are no other plants to climb on.

- Has sticky seed pods, spread by birds and foxes
- Seed pods burst open, spreading seeds away from main plant
- Will spread by smothering other plants and overtaking the understorey
- Invades heath land, grassland and dry forests

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Edna Walling Blue Bells™

Sollya heterophylla x parviflora



Photo: Austraflora P/L

This sterile form of the popular Bluebell Creeper is named after Edna Walling, an Australian landscape gardener of the mid 1900s. It is a small dense shrub that twines along posts or walls. Likes full sun or light shade and well-drained soils. It has the characteristic small, blue flowers and can be grown in containers. This form cannot set fertile seed, so is a safer alternative to the common Bluebell Creeper.



Convolvulus

Convolvulus mauritanicus

Photo: Annie Lamb

Trailing plant with small, oval leaves and blue to mauve flowers from spring to autumn. It will grow in sun or shade, tolerates salt spray and is hardy. It can be used in hanging baskets, as a spill-over plant or ground cover and can be pruned to shape. Convolvulus are widely available and there are cultivars with different coloured flowers.

Native Jasmine

Jasminum suavissimum



Photo: Brian Walters © ASGAP

Native to New South Wales, this Jasmine has perfumed white flowers during late spring and summer. It is a twining plant and is hardy, provided the soil is well-drained. If planted near other plants, it will twine over them, but if planted away, it can be grown as a shrub. Prefers full sun to part shade and will tolerate mild frosts.



Photos: Annie Lamb

Blue Periwinkle

Vinca major

Often planted as a colourful ground cover for shady areas, it smothers out native vegetation and overtakes the ground layer. Invades moist and shady sites in bushland as well as waterways.

- Spreads by stems along the ground
- Broken pieces left behind will grow into new plants
- Plant pieces can also spread by water and establish downstream
- Spread by dumping garden waste

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Native Sarsaparilla or Happy Wanderer

Hardenbergia violacea

Commonly available under the name "Happy Wanderer", this native climber has beautiful purple flowers from July to November, but is also available with white or pink flowers and as a bushy shrub. It has large green leaves and makes a good screener or cover-up plant. Prefers well-drained soils.



Photos: M Fagg © ANBG



Creeping Boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium

This ground-creeping plant grows quickly and spreads 2-4m wide. It has masses of small white to pink star-like flowers over summer, followed by edible green to purple berries. Prefers well-drained soil and full sun, and is also frost tolerant. It is useful for binding soil and looks great in rockeries.



Photo: A McWhirter © ANBG

Bougainvillea

Bougainvillea spectabilis hybrids

Bougainvilleas are climbing plants that love sun and warmth. They thrive in free-draining soil and hate water sitting around the roots. They flower over summer in a range of colours from mauve to scarlet red.



Photo: www.gradinamea.ro



Bridal creeper
Asparagus asparagoides

Photos: Annie Lamb

This aggressive climber was introduced as an ornamental and despite being a Declared Noxious Weed, is still available in some nurseries. It quickly smothers out ground layer vegetation and climbs up anything it can, strangling the plants underneath in the process.

- Fruit matures by early summer and is spread by birds
- Grows during autumn-winter, forming dense curtains of twining stems
- Spreads by underground tubers, which form up to 90 per cent of plant mass
- Foliage dies off over summer, leaving the tuber mass underground

It is **illegal** to sell or trade this weed and this includes sharing cuttings with your neighbour!
Biological control is available for this weed.

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Creeping Fig Hedge

Ficus pumila

This vigorous, climbing fig has roots that attach themselves to surfaces such as walls, trees or fences, making it an excellent screening plant or hedge. It has crinkly, heart shaped leaves and the mature plants produce yellow-green inedible figs.



Photo: © Burkes Backyard

*Please be aware that this plant grows vigorously and should not be dumped or planted near bushland as it may spread.

Native Sarsaparilla or Happy Wanderer

Hardenbergia violacea

Commonly available under the name “Happy Wanderer”, this native climber has beautiful purple flowers from July to November, but is also available with white or pink flowers and as a bushy shrub. It has large green leaves and makes a good screener or cover-up plant. Prefers well-drained soils.



Photos: M Fagg © ANBG



Above
photo:
R.P.Ellis

Photos above & right:: Annie Lamb

Wandering trad

Tradescantia fluminensis

This rampant, smothering creeper invades moist, shaded environments. It dominates the ground layer, preventing shrub and tree growth and is a common garden plant used in shady areas.

- Spreads by stolons along the ground
- Plant pieces spread in soil and water grow into new infestations
- Stem fragments dumped in garden waste result in new outbreaks
- Serious invader of damp areas and our creeks and rivers

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Bidgee Widgee

Acaena novae-zelandiae

This native groundcover plant grows out to 4m and will grow over rocks, logs and spill over retaining walls. The unusual flowers are round green to white balls, followed by fruit heads with pinkish-red spikes. A great ground cover and soil-stabilising plant. Will grow in full sun or shade and in damp or dry spots.



Photo: Morwell National Park



Photo: M. Fagg © ANBG

The burrs can be a problem with clothing and dog coats so plant them in a spot with low traffic.

Native Pig Face

Carprobrotus modestus or *C. rossii*

These native Pig Face plants are great ground covers and naturally grow in coastal environments. They grow out to 3m wide and have thick, succulent leaves.



C.modestus
Photo: D. Greig © ANBG



C. rossii
Photo: M Fagg © ANBG

Flowers vary from hot pink to purple and white, with yellow centres, and open only on sunny days. They are drought and salt-tolerant, making them perfect for the coast or sandy soils.



L & R: Kate Blood



Photo: Peter Steller

Montbretia

Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora

A popular garden plant that has become an aggressive invader of woodlands, roadsides, drainage lines and creek banks. Plants produce hundreds of seeds each year and corms can re-shoot for at least two seasons.

- Seeds are spread in water, soil and by slashing
- Corms are spread by water, soil, slashing and during removal
- Many infestations are the result of dumping of garden waste
- Highly invasive in the garden as well as bushland

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Day Lily *Heemerocallis* species

Day lilies are hardy and frost tolerant, but require well-drained soil and a sunny position. Each flower only lasts one day, but plants have numerous flowers over several months. Many varieties are available with colours from white to burgundy and yellow. They will grow to about 1m with a tussock of strappy leaves to 60cm wide.

Photo: © 1999, Nova-Norwood

Bulbine Lily *Bulbine bulbosa*

This native lily has a tuft of leaves at the base, with a tall stalk of yellow star-like flowers from September to January. Dies back during autumn and early



winter to a tuberous rootstock, but may continue to produce flowers throughout the year with extra watering over summer. Prefers moist, well-drained soils.

Photos: M Fagg © ANBG

Other alternatives include:

Flax Lilies—*Dianella* species
See page 37 for details

Photos: M Fagg © ANBG



Kangaroo Paws—
Anigozanthos species
See page 37 for details





Photo: Annie Lamb

Arum Lily
Zantedeschia aethiopica

A popular garden plant for damp areas and widely used by florists, Arum lilies invade waterways, roadsides and damp or wet areas. All parts of the plant are poisonous to animals (including humans) and cause skin irritations. Arum Lilies are widely available in nurseries and garden centres.

- Plants spread by rhizomes
- Seeds is spread by water, birds, foxes and soil.
- Also spread by dumping of garden waste
- Hard to kill as they tolerate frost, water logging, wind, sun or shade and most soil types including sand.

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Elephants Ears

Alocasia macrorrhiza

Grows up to 2m, has large, tropical looking leaves and white to yellow flowers followed by red berries in summer. Grows best in moist, shady areas. Areas that attract run-off are suitable.

Photo: M Fagg © ANBG

Calla lilies

Zantedeschia hybrids

Up to 1m tall with many colour varieties. The spotted, dark green leaves die down in winter. Grows well in rich soil and full sun to light shade.



Photo: © 1999, Nova-Norwood



Christmas Lily/Amazon Lily

Eucharis x grandiflora

Up to 70cm with white, scented flowers. Prefers moist soils and grows in part shade to full sun. Can be grown in pots.

Photo: © Australian Bulb Association Image Gallery



Photos: Annie Lamb, except top by Natalie Liddell

Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox ssp. orientalis

Agapanthus are very popular garden plants, particularly in country areas to line driveways, but they are easily spread. They invade roadsides, bushland and waterways, and are often grown because of their hardiness and impossibility to be killed!

- Spreads by rhizomes, forming thick clumps
- Seeds are spread by wind, water and soil
- Often spread by dumping garden waste
- Each flower head can have hundreds of seed
- Leaves and rhizomes are toxic and can cause severe ulceration of the mouth

→ TIP: cut off the flower heads each year before they dry and set seed

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Lomandra longifolia

Mat-rushes

Lomandra longifolia
or *Lomandra filiformis*

These indigenous sedges grow into a tussock of strappy leaves and have prickly flower spikes. Grow well in sandy soils and sometimes damp soils. *L. filiformis* grows to 20cm, whereas *L. longifolia* grows to 1m. Photo: Annie Lamb

Flax Lilies *Dianella* species

D. tasmanica
Photo: M Fagg
© ANBG



These native lilies have a tussock of strappy leaves and tall flower spikes with amazing purple flowers and berries. Grow in sunny, well drained positions. There are varieties with variegated leaves and dwarf varieties. Different species vary in size, width of leaves and flowers. Most are commonly available in nurseries. Try *Dianella tasmanica* or *Dianella revoluta*. Both are indigenous to the Gippsland area.



Photo: Annie Lamb



Kangaroo Paws *Anigozanthos* species

Native to Western Australia, Kangaroo Paws have a tussock of strappy leaves with tall flower stalks ranging from pink to yellow.

There are many varieties in different colours and sizes, readily-available in nurseries. Grows in well-drained soil in a sunny position.



Photos: M Fagg © ANBG



Photos: Annie Lamb

Gazanias

Gazania spp.

These have been a favourite of people living in coastal areas for some time but are very invasive, particularly in residential areas near the beach, where they are frequently planted. There are many varieties available in nurseries and most are weedy, specifically *G.linearis* and *G.rigens*.

- Produce abundant seeds that are spread by wind and water
- Spread by dumping garden waste
- Also spread by stolons
- Stops native ground layer plants from growing
- Quickly spreads along roadsides by seed blown from nearby gardens

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Cut Leaf Daisy

Brachyscome multifida var. *multifida*

A fast-growing, spreading daisy with small flowers with white, lilac blue, pink or mauve flowers most of the year but peaking in spring and summer. Up to 40cm high and spreading to 1m, they are great for rockeries and as a soil binder. Prefer moist soils. Very popular ornamental and available in most nurseries. Not to be confused with the invasive Sea-side Daisy *Erigeron karvinskianus*.



Photos: Annie Lamb

Native Pig Face

Carpobrotus modestus or *C. rossii*

These native Pig Face plants are great ground covers and naturally grow in coastal environments. They grow out to 3m wide and have thick, succulent leaves. Flowers vary from hot pink to purple and white, with yellow centres, and open only on sunny days. They are drought and salt-tolerant, making them perfect for the coast or sandy soils.



C. modestus
Photo: D. Greig
© ANBG



C. rossii
Photo: M Fagg © ANBG



Photo above:
Annie Lamb

Photos below & right:
Colin G Wilson



Lantana hybrids

Lantana camara hybrids

This scrambling shrub is often planted along fences, and loves being neglected! Flower clusters vary from pink to yellow; leaves and stems are rough to touch. Common *Lantana camara* is a declared noxious weed in Victoria and it is **illegal** to sell or trade. The hybrid forms are quickly becoming some of Australia's worst weeds.

- Cross pollinates with *Lantana camara*, increasing spread
- Overgrows native vegetation, smothering trees and shrubs
- Seeds spread by birds and in dumped garden waste
- Also spreads by suckers
- Toxic to humans and animals

GROW ME INSTEAD



Old Man's Beard *Clematis aristata*

This native climbing plant has masses of white star-shaped flowers to 6cm across and fluffy seed heads. Leaves are shiny green and up to 8cm long. Grows in shade to full sun in well-drained soil. Another species *C. microphylla* var. *microphylla* (Small-leaved Clematis), has smaller leaves to 3cm long, cream flowers and grows in drier sites. Both climb to around 3m.



Photo: A McWhirter © ANBG



Photo: D Kelly © ANBG

Golden Guinea Flower *Hibbertia scandens*

This vigorous climbing or scrambling plant grows 2-5 metres long and has large, golden yellow flowers mostly in spring and summer. Each flower lasts only one day, but many flowers are produced over a period of time. It flowers best in full sun, but will grow in semi-shaded areas too, tolerates moderate frost and makes a great screening plant along walls or fences.



Photo: Brian Walters © ASGAP



Photo: M Fagg © ANBG



Photos: Annie Lamb

Kikuyu

Pennisetum clandestinum

This common lawn grass isn't a problem when confined to the lawn, but it often escapes and invades bushland. It should never be planted near bush reserves or where it won't be kept trimmed.

- Creeping stems take root at the nodes
- Fragments spread by lawn mowers, in soil and dumped garden waste
- All roots and stems have to be removed or plant will regrow
- Listed as one of the worst crop weeds in the world

GROW ME INSTEAD



Windmill Grass

Chloris truncata

This small native grass grows to 45cm tall, has blue-green leaves with spikes of purple to black flowers in a windmill shape. Prefers well-drained soils and a sunny position. Flowers are similar to couch grass, only bigger. Also suitable for pastures.

Photo: Mick Cincotta



Weeping Grass

Microlaena stipoides

This native grass grows to 60cm high with flower stems to 1m high that arch over to give it the name 'weeping grass'. Makes a great lawn grass for shady sites and

looks attractive in the garden. Prefers well-drained soil. Can be regularly mown.

Photo: D Sharp, QLD Herbarium



Photo: G Manley © ANBG



Photo: Annie Lamb

Common Tussock Grass

Poa labillardieri

Forms a densely-tufted tussock about 1m tall with seed heads up to 1.2m high. Leaves vary from green, grey-green to blue-green. Flowers Oct-Feb and grows in moist to slightly dry soils. Grows quickly. Widely-available in nurseries.

Note: There are other species of *Poa* that are available from indigenous nurseries.



Photo:
Kate Blood

Spanish Heath
Erica lusitanica

This erect woody shrub can produce up to 230 million seeds in its 30 year life span! Rapidly spreads along roadsides and drainage lines via water and machinery. It invades heath lands, waterways and damp or dry bush land.

- Tolerates drought, grazing, slashing and trampling
- Roots readily sucker and spread
- Seeds spread by wind, water, soil, machinery and dumped garden waste
- Seeds remain viable in the soil for more than four years

GROW ME INSTEAD



Common Heath *Epacris impressa*

Victoria's floral emblem, Common Heath is an upright heath to 1.5m, although usually much less than this, with small prickly leaves and masses of white, pink or red flowers from March to November. Prefers moist, well-drained soil. Great for rockeries.



Photo: D Greig © ANBG



Thryptomene *Thryptomene* species

There are more than 40 species of *Thryptomene* with different coloured flowers and growth habits. Most are shrubs up to 1.5m high and 0.5m wide. Used in floristry, they have fragrant foliage and beautiful, dainty flowers varying from white to dark

pink. *Thryptomenes* are tough, drought-tolerant shrubs that prefer well-drained soils.

Photo: M. Fagg © ANBG

Boronia *Boronia* species

Boronias are available at most nurseries and in a variety of colours and forms from tall shrubs to ground covers.



Photo: M. Fagg © ANBG

Photo:
D. Greig
© ANBG



They generally grow in free-draining soil but there are varieties available for different climates and soil types, so ask at the nursery.



Photos: Annie Lamb

English Ivy *Hedera helix*

This rampant climber comes from England, where the winter snow keeps it under control. In Australia it threatens our bush by overtaking the ground layer, smothering shrubs and climbing up trees. Trees often collapse under the extra weight, especially during high winds.

- Spreads vegetatively by climbing up trees and shrubs
- Flowers when it reaches a certain height, producing hundreds of seeds
- Seeds spread by wind, birds and possibly foxes
- Can produce chemicals that kill other plants

GROW ME INSTEAD



Wonga Wonga Vine *Pandorea pandorana*



This native climber grows in shade best, but will grow in part to full sun. It is a twining plant with tubular white flowers. There are several cultivars available; one called "Golden Showers" has yellow-bronze flowers. Spring flowers are followed by large, oblong fruits in summer.



Photos: M. Fagg © ANBG

Native Sarsaparilla or Happy Wanderer *Hardenbergia violacea*



Commonly available under the name "Happy Wanderer", this native climber has beautiful purple flowers from July to November, but is also available with white or pink flowers and as a bushy shrub. It has large green leaves and makes a good screener or cover-up plant. Prefers well-drained soils.



Photos: M. Fagg © ANBG

Ornamental Grape/ Common Grape *Vitis vinifera*



There are thousands of varieties of grape and many will grow in most conditions. They provide glorious colour in autumn as the leaves turn various shades of red and orange. Great for winter sun and summer shade as they are deciduous.

Photo: www.brandyvalleywine.com



Photos: Annie Lamb

Cape Ivy *Delairea odorata*

A perennial climber with stems that reach up to 10m, Cape Ivy forms a thick mat on the ground layer, smothering out native plants. Used as a screener and on fences, it quickly climbs up trees and overtakes the garden and bush.

- Spreads by climbing over other plants
- Seeds are spread by birds, wind, water, soil and dumped garden waste
- Cut stems will re-grow when conditions are suitable
- Plant fragments will grow into new plants
- Not widely available in nurseries but common at markets

GROW ME INSTEAD



Wonga Wonga Vine *Pandorea pandorana*



This native climber grows in shade best, but will grow in part to full sun. It is a twining plant with tubular white flowers. There are several cultivars available; one called “Golden Showers” has yellow-bronze flowers. Spring flowers are followed by large, oblong fruits in summer.



Photos: M. Fagg © ANBG

Ivy-leaf Geranium *Pelargonium peltata*

This spreading geranium has ivy-like leaves. Available in many cultivars with varying foliage and different coloured flowers from pink to mauve and red. Grow in sun to part shade. Great cover for fences or pergolas.



Photo: Thompson & Morgan Group Ltd.

Native Sarsaparilla or Happy Wanderer *Hardenbergia violacea*



Commonly available under the name “Happy Wanderer”, this native climber has beautiful purple flowers from July to November, but is also available with white or pink flowers and as a bushy shrub. It has large green leaves and makes a good screener or cover-up plant. Prefers

well-drained soils.

Photos: M. Fagg © ANBG





Photo: Sally Vidler

Freesias

Freesia x hybrid

Popular ornamentals, most Freesia hybrids are based on *F. alba* and *F. leichtlinii* as parent stock and are freely-available. Freesias have become invasive in woodlands and roadsides, preventing the growth of native ground cover plants. Many infestations are the result of deliberate plantings.

- Spread by dumping of garden waste
- Seeds and bulbils spread by wind, water, slashing and garden waste
- Any corms left behind when digging out will form new plants
- Infestations may not be noticed until flowering starts

GROW ME INSTEAD



Butterfly Flag

Diplarrena moraea

These iris-like plants have a clump of long, flat leaves up to 1m tall, with taller stalks of white flowers, sometimes with purple markings. Great for mass plantings or in containers.



Flower best in full sun and are frost hardy. They are indigenous to Gippsland.

Photo: A McWhirter © ANBG



Photo: M. Fagg © ANBG

Granny's Bonnet

Aquilegia species

These small perennials grow in sheltered positions and have flowers resembling a bonnet, with various colours from red to purple. Widely-available. Great for cut flowers.



Photo: © 1999, Nova-Norwood

Dietes

Dietes bicolour,
Dietes grandiflora

These clumping plants have dark green strappy leaves and have masses of flowers in spring. *D.bicolour* has yellow flowers with brown markings and *D.grandiflora* has white flowers with purple and yellow markings. Low maintenance and look great in mass plantings. Widely-available commercially.



Photos: Annie Lamb





N. trichotoma Serrated Tussock

Photo: Peter Steller

All Nassella grasses

Nassella species

Many of these grasses look native and are often sold as native *Stipa* species. Beware when buying any grasses and check that they are what the label says. Most have become invasive, particularly Serrated Tussock (*N. trichotoma*) and Mexican Feather Grass (*N. tenuissima*). Serrated Tussock is a Weed of National Significance and entry into Australia is prohibited.

- Invade pastures, native grasslands and woodlands
- Seeds spread by wind up to 16km
- Seeds spread by animals, hay, machinery and on clothing
- Sometimes dug up and planted in gardens
- Unpalatable to stock
- Tolerate poor soil, fire, drought and frost
- Australia spends more than \$45 million each year on Serrated Tussock management!

GROW ME INSTEAD



Common Tussock Grass

Poa labillardieri

Forms a densely-tufted tussock about 1m tall, with seed heads up to 1.2m high. Leaves vary from green, grey-green to blue-green.



Flowers Oct-Feb and grows in moist to slightly dry soils. Grows quickly. Widely available in nurseries.

Note: There are other species of *Poa* that are available from indigenous nurseries.

Photos: Annie Lamb



Native *Carex* sedges

Carex apressa or
Carex iynx

Carex grow in moist to wet sites and are great for stabilising stream banks or in bog gardens and moist parts of the garden. *C.*

apressa

Photo: M Fagg © ANBG

apressa gets to 1.2m and although it is slow growing, it's tough and tolerates inundation. *C. iynx* will grow in slightly drier site, reaches 40cm high and has finer leaves.

Photo: Mick Cincotta



Mat-rushes

Lomandra longifolia or
Lomandra filiformis

See page 37 for details

Photo: Annie Lamb





Photo: Kate Blood

Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Grows in woodlands, heath lands and riparian areas where annual rainfall exceeds 600mm. It is an aggressive climbing shrub that smothers native ground layer plants, shrubs and trees. The black berries are poisonous and leaves may also be toxic. There are many cultivars and species available and most are invasive.

- Spreads by stolons
- Plant fragments spread by water, soil, birds and in garden waste
- Can cover up 6m² in one season
- Swapped among gardening enthusiasts and spread from gardens
- Cut stumps re-shoot
- Control plants before seeding at two years

GROW ME INSTEAD



Chinese Star Jasmine *Trachelospermum jasminoides*

This evergreen vine grows to 7m and has fragrant, white, star-shaped flowers. Adapts to most soils and prefers an open, sunny position. Available from nurseries.

Photo: © 1999 Nova-Norwood

Wisteria *Wisteria* species

Wisterias are vigorous climbers and there are many varieties available. They commonly have loads of beautiful lilac flowers in spring and don't need a lot of water or fertiliser. Best in full sun, will grow in shade but won't flower well.



Photo: © 1999
Nova-Norwood

DO NOT plant *W. sinensis* (Chinese Wisteria) or *W. floribunda* (Japanese Wisteria) as these have become weedy in other countries and may become weedy here. Ask the nursery which species it is.

Bougainvillea *Bougainvillea spectabilis* hybrids

Bougainvilleas are climbing plants that love sun and warmth. They thrive in free-draining soil and hate water sitting around the roots. They flower over summer in a range of colours from mauve to scarlet red.



Photo: www.gradinamea.ro



Photos:
Annie Lamb

Asparagus Fern *Asparagus scandens*

Closely-related to Bridal Creeper, this climbing plant has fern-like leaves and red berries. It forms dense, tangled nets and strangles plants. It can grow on tree ferns and tree branch crooks. Like Bridal Creeper, most of the plant mass is underground in the tuber mat.

- Spreads by climbing over plants and via tuberous roots
- Seeds are spread by birds (especially blackbirds) and other animals, dumped garden waste and machinery
- Tubers are long-lived and need to be removed entirely
- Not commonly available at nurseries but usually found at fetes and exchanged between gardeners

GROW ME INSTEAD



Mother Spleenwort *Asplenium bulbiferum* *ssp. gracillimum*

This native epiphytic fern will grow on rocks, tree fern trunks and logs as well as in the ground. It grows in a spreading tuft and is quite easy to grow and hardy. Grows up to 1.2m. Readily-available.



Photo: M. Fagg © ANBG

Native Maidenhair *Adiantum aethiopicum*

Hard to tell apart from the introduced Maidenhair, this fern is ideal for moist outdoor areas, but can also be grown in pots and hanging baskets if given enough water. Up to 45cm high and spreading. Widely-available.



Photo: R. Hill © ANBG



Photo: D. Greig
© ANBG



Photo: R. Hill © ANBG

Coral Fern *Gleichenia rupestris*

Native to far East Gippsland, this fern has fine fronds like Asparagus Fern. It grows near cliffs and rainforests and can be grown indoors in humid conditions.



Photos: Kate Blood

Wild Watsonia

Watsonia meriana var. *bulbilifera*

A garden ornamental, Watsonia can be invasive in bushland and particularly along roadsides and railway lines where machinery spreads the cormils. Infestations are often overlooked until the plants flower and a mass of orange highlights the problem.

- Underground corms are spread when disturbed
- Cormils grow along the flowering stem and are spread by machinery when mowing and slashing
- Spread by water, contaminated soil and traded among gardeners
- Prevent overstorey plants from growing by forming dense stands that smother the ground layer.
- Plants can live for more than 35 years!

GROW ME INSTEAD



Tulips

Tulipa species

There are Tulips available in a range of different colours.

There are now varieties that require less winter chilling

prior to planting. Tulips prefer a sunny or partly-shaded position and well-drained, cool soil. They will provide a fantastic display of colour come spring-time.



Photo: © 1999 Nova-Norwood



Photo: Annie Lamb

Dietes

Dietes bicolour,
Dietes grandiflora

These clumping plants have dark green strappy leaves and have masses of flowers in spring. *D.bicolour* has yellow flowers with brown markings and *D.grandiflora* has white flowers with



purple and yellow markings. Low maintenance and look great in mass plantings. Widely-available commercially.

Photos: Annie Lamb



Kangaroo Paws

Anigozanthos species

Native to Western Australia, Kangaroo Paws have a tussock of strappy leaves with tall flower stalks ranging from pink to yellow. There are many varieties in different colours and sizes readily-available in nurseries. Grows in well-drained soil in a sunny position.

Photo: M Fagg
© ANBG



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank those who helped in the production of this booklet by providing photographs, expertise, information and time. They include:

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Left—Flax Lily flowers (*Dianella revoluta*)

Photo: Mick Cincotta

Right—Native Rosemary flowers (*Westringia* species)

Photo: Annie Lamb



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This booklet was produced by Annie Lamb, Wellington Shire Council, with help from Peter Steller, Latrobe City Council and Ian Bate, East Gippsland Shire Council.



Left—Common Cassinia (*Cassinia longifolia*)

Below—Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*)

Photos: Annie Lamb



Left—Grass Tree flower spike (*Xanthorrhoea australis*)

Photo: Annie Lamb





Supported by
the Victorian Government's
Tackling Weeds on Private Land
initiative

