

Local native plant list

Below are some of the native plants local to the City of Tea Tree Gully and used in natural landscape plantings in our reserves.

Many of these plants are also suitable for home gardens.

Species	Description	Situation & Care.	Wildlife & Ecology
Large Shrubs			
Wreath Wattle <i>(Acacia acinacea)</i>	Medium sized shrub to 1.5m tall with arching branches and small bright green leaves. Habit can vary. Masses of bright yellow flowers along stems in spring.	Dry, well-drained soil in semi-shade. Tolerant of full sun and a wide variety of soils and conditions. Resents poor drainage. Light pruning after flowering will promote and retain dense habit. Good for hedging, screening, under trees and in large containers.	Food for insects and seed-eating birds. Nectar for Two-spotted LineOblue butterfly and caterpillar.
Kangaroo Thorn <i>(Acacia paradoxa)</i>	Bushy large shrub to 4m tall with very prickly foliage. Dull green leaves and bright yellow flowers in early spring. An excellent habitat plant for small birds and mammals	Dry, well-drained soil in full or part sun. Tolerates a variety of soils. Useful as a screen and for bird habitat.	Small thorns provide excellent protection for small birds

Large Shrubs

Christmas Bush (Bursaria spinosa)	Shrub to 2m tall. Stiff, angular stems supporting dark-green, glossy leaves and thin thorns. Masses of tiny fragrant creamy flowers on ends of branches in summer.	Dry, well-drained soil and full sun. Tolerates moist, well-drained soil and full shade. Resents permanently poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Good as a hedge, specimen plant and for cut flowers. Can be lightly pruned.	Nectar for butterflies. Attracts insects and insect-eating birds.
River Bottlebrush (Calistemon sieberi)	Fast growing dense shrub to 3m tall. Creamy white 'bottlebrush' flowers.	Full sun to part shade. Prefers a moderately damp situation. Good for stabilizing river banks.	Nectar for insects.
Tall Scurf-pea (Cullen australasicum)	Erect open branched shrub to 1.5m tall. Spikes of pinkish pea flowers in spring and autumn.	Prune to create a more dense plant and extend the life of this short lived plant. Drought tolerant. Works well in a cottage style garden.	Caterpillar food plant and nectar for butterflies and birds.
Hop Goodenia (Goodenia ovata)	Erect or prostrate shrub to 2m tall with oval, glossy, bright green leaves. Bright yellow flowers most of the year, but especially during spring and summer.	Moist soil and semi-shade. Tolerates full sun to full shade, dry soil, poor drainage and some water-logging. Drought-tolerant. Fast growing. Prune tips severely to promote dense growth. Suckers easily. Good for rock gardens, bog gardens and under trees.	Provides food for insect-eating birds. Nectar for butterflies.

Large Shrubs

Native Lilac (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>)	Ground covering or twining sub shrub to 2m tall. Large, lance shaped leathery leaves with a pale underside. Numerous sprays of lilac flowers in late winter.	Dry, well-drained, heavy soil in full sun. Tolerates wet winter and dry summer soils and up to full shade. Fast growing. Resents poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Prune heavily to rejuvenate growth. Good as groundcover, cascading over fences and walls, under trees and in containers.	Seeds dispersed by ants attracted by the nutritious aril on the seeds. Nectar for butterflies
Twiggy Daisy-bush (<i>Olearia ramulosa</i>)	Dense, rounded, silver-green aromatic shrub to 1.5m high if pruned. Small white daisy flowers cover the bush in autumn.	Dry, well-drained soils in full sun to semi-shade. Tolerates heavier soils. Can create a formal shrub/hedge if pruned. Drought-tolerant.	Provides food for insect-eating birds. Nectar for butterflies.
Desert Cassia (<i>Senna artemisioides</i>)	A large grey-green shrub to 2.5m tall. Fine foliage and abundant buttercup flowers winter-spring.	Prefers full sun to light shade. Drought tolerant. Tolerates most soils. Fine foliage creates foliage contrast in garden setting.	Ants eat arils and disperse seed. Food for <i>Icilius</i> Blue and Small Grass Yellow butterflies and caterpillars.

Small shrubs			
<p>Clustered Everlasting <i>(Chrysocephalum semipapposum)</i></p>	<p>Everlasting daisy forming a large clump of erect stems with narrow, grey, woolly leaves to 50 x 50cm. Golden, button-like flowers in clusters on ends of stems. Spring to summer.</p>	<p>Dry well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates wet winter soil and shade. Very drought-tolerant. Good groundcover, cut and dried flowers and under trees.</p>	<p>Provides nectar for butterflies.</p>
<p>Mallee Bush-pea (Eutaxia microphylla var. microphylla)</p>	<p>Small shrub to less than 1m tall with closely packed, tiny, grey-green leaves on rigid stems. Lots of attractive orange-yellow “egg and bacon” pea flowers in winter to spring.</p>	<p>Dry, well-drained soil. Tolerates up to full shade. Resents permanently poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Can be pruned severely. Good as groundcover, in rock gardens, containers, hanging baskets and under trees.</p>	<p>Plants eaten by the larvae of butterflies. Seeds dispersed by ants attracted by the nutritious aril on the seeds.</p>
<p>White Goodenia (Goodenia albiflora)</p>	<p>Low shrub to less than 1m tall spreading up to 1m. Contrasting grey foliage with white flowers in spring and summer.</p>	<p>Dry, well-drained soil. Prefers full sun. Effective en-mass, as low informal hedge and in rockeries</p>	<p>Attracts native butterflies and insects, caterpillar food plant.</p>
<p>Clasping Goodenia (Goodenia amplexans)</p>	<p>Rounded shrub to 1m. Bright lime-green leaves clasping the entire stem. Small yellow flowers spring to summer but often all year.</p>	<p>Dry well-drained to boggy soil. Does best with some summer water. Sun to semi shade. Responds well to pruning. Can be pruned for new growth.</p>	<p>Attracts native bees and insects. Meadow Argus butterfly and caterpillar food.</p>

Small shrubs			
Sticky Goodenia <i>(Goodenia varia)</i>	Small shrub to 1m tall. Bright green foliage, yellow flowers spring to autumn.	Good for small gardens in full sun. Responds well to pruning.	Attracts butterflies and insects, caterpillar food plant.
Dwarf Hakea <i>(Hakea rugosa)</i>	Open, twiggy shrub to 1m tall. Linear leaves which are round in cross-section. Sharply pointed tips. White-to-cream grevillea-like flowers in winter and spring, followed by woody, beaked pods.	Well-drained soil in full sun to part-shade. Drought-tolerant. Provides colour and a source of nectar for wildlife in winter.	Nectar and pollen are food for honeyeaters in winter. Birds such as the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo eat the seed. Nesting site for wrens and thornbills.
Button Everlasting <i>(Helichrysum scorpioides)</i>	Hardy perennial to 0.5m tall. Yellow papery flowers winter to spring.	Full sun, suitable for small gardens. Good filler or edging plant. Prune in winter. Prefers some additional water in summer.	Caterpillar food plant.
Native Flax <i>(Linum marginale)</i>	Delicate plant with erect, sometimes branched stems to 50cm tall. Long stems carrying pale-blue flowers in spring.	Well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates wet winter, dry summer, poor drainage and semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Most effective when planted in groups.	
Austral Trefoil <i>(Lotus australis)</i>	Small open shrub to 50cm tall. Soft light-green leaves with three lobes. Pale pink or white pea-like flowers in groups in late spring to summer.	Moist well-drained soils. Tolerates dry periods once established. Attractive rockery plant.	Larval food plant for butterflies. Nectar for butterflies.

Small shrubs			
Australian Pelargonium <i>(Pelargonium australe)</i>	Rounded plant with oval, softly hairy, aromatic leaves to 50 x 50cm. White flowers with purple veins in clusters above foliage in spring to summer.	Dry, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates moist, well-drained soil and semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. May die back in dry weather but will re-shoot with rain. Prune severely to rejuvenate old plants.	
Drumsticks <i>(Pycnosorus globosus)</i>	Very ornamental small plant with brilliant yellow globular flowers. 0.2-1m tall.	Full sun, tolerates dryness but does best with a little water. Tolerates a wide variety of soils. Makes excellent dried or cut flowers.	Attracts bees, butterflies and other insects.
Narrow-leaf New Holland Daisy <i>(Vittadinia blackii)</i>	Small short-lived perennial or annual daisy less than knee-high. Small green leaves. Small pretty pale purple to violet flowers mainly in spring, followed by fluffy seed heads that can cover the plant.	Dry well-drained soils in full sun. Best planted in groups. Good in a cottage-style garden.	Nectar for butterflies.
Tall Bluebell <i>(Wahlenbergia stricta ssp. stricta)</i>	Delicate plant, leaves are grey-green and narrow. Numerous bright blue bell-shaped flowers in spring to early summer. Flower-heads up to 90cm tall.	Well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates semi-shade. Resents poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Very effective when planted in groups. Long flowering. Suitable for containers, under trees and as a ground cover. Flowers are edible and can be eaten fresh.	Food for insect-eating birds.

Grasses & sedges			
<p>Lemon Scented Grass <i>(Cymbopogon ambiguus)</i></p>	<p>Blue-green clumping grass. Arching leaves to 50cm tall with flowering spikes to 1.5m in spring and summer. Leaves have a strong lemon scent when crushed.</p>	<p>Full sun to part-shade. Very drought-tolerant. Most effective when planted in groups.</p>	<p>Home for a small spider that looks and moves like a ripe seed.</p>
<p>Black-anther Flax-lily <i>(Dianella revoluta var. revoluta)</i></p>	<p>Stiff plant up to 1m high with blue-grey strap-like leaves. Deep blue flowers carried above the leaves followed by blue berries, spring to summer.</p>	<p>Moist well-drained soil in semi-shade. Tolerates wet winter and dry summer soil and full sun to full shade. Drought-tolerant. Good as ground cover and under trees.</p>	<p>Food for seed-eating birds.</p>
<p>Knobby Club-rush <i>(Ficinia nodosa)</i></p>	<p>Tussock-forming rush with rigid leafless stems to 1m tall. Semi-globular clusters of small red-brown spikes near the end of stems throughout the year.</p>	<p>Wet poorly-drained soil in full sun but will tolerate drying out for periods of time and semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Reliable plant with distinctive form.</p>	<p>Habitat for water birds.</p>

Grasses & sedges

Soft-tussock Mat-rush (<i>Lomandra densiflora</i>)	Tussock strappy leaved plant to 50cm tall. Long stiff grey-green leaves.	Prefers full sun and free draining soils. Benefits from some additional water in summer.	Habitat refuge for small mammals and reptiles. Caterpillar food plant.
Common Tussock Grass (<i>Poa labillardieri</i>)	Large tussock-forming grass up to 1m x 1m. Long green leaves drying to silvery grey. Plume-like flower head spring to summer.	Moist, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates wet winter and dry summer soil, poor drainage, seasonal water-logging and semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Fast growing. Cut back severely in autumn to rejuvenate tussocks. Good in rock gardens, as groundcover and as an informal edging plant.	Provides seed for small birds and food for butterfly larvae

Ground covers & climbers

<p>Sweet Apple-berry (<i>Billardiera cymosa</i>)</p>	<p>Climber, or shrub to knee high in open situations. Dark green leaves, striking purple to blue tubular flowers in spring. Red/purple edible berries in summer.</p>	<p>Full sun or part shade, tolerates a variety of soils. Prune to encourage density. Minimal supplementary water required. Good for small gardens.</p>	<p>Attracts seed eating birds and lizards.</p>
<p>Common Everlasting (<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>)</p>	<p>Ground cover to 60cm wide. Grey to silver foliage and long lasting golden yellow flowers from spring to autumn.</p>	<p>Full sun and well-drained soils. Suitable for small gardens and rockeries. Effective planted in groups. Can be pruned to encourage new growth and further flowering.</p>	<p>Attracts insects and native bees. Australian Painted Lady butterfly and caterpillar food.</p>
<p>Ruby Saltbush (<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>)</p>	<p>Small shrub or ground cover with dense, succulent grey foliage to 1m wide. Inconspicuous flowers followed by red or yellow edible berries most of the year.</p>	<p>Dry, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Can be pruned to shape and encourage new growth.</p>	<p>Berries provide food for birds.</p>
<p>Running Postman (<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>)</p>	<p>Fast-growing spreading ground cover to 2m across with soft, round leaves in a clover-leaf arrangement on slender stems radiating out from the root system. Large, showy, scarlet pea flowers with yellow centres form along stems in spring.</p>	<p>Dry well-drained soil in semi-shade. Tolerates moist well-drained soil and full sun. Moderately drought-tolerant. Good ground cover, under trees, in pots, hanging baskets and cascading over rocks and walls.</p>	<p>Long-tailed Pea Blue butterfly and caterpillar food.</p>