Healthy and attractive coastal landscapes

This guide provides simple yet inspiring garden advice for coastal residents in the Fraser Coast Region. Water-wise local native plants are suggested as attractive replacements for introduced plants that are harmful to our local coastal landscapes.

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Gardens in South-East Queensland face a challenging set of climatic and environmental conditions, from extended dry periods to extremely wet seasons, nutrient-deficient acidic and sandy or sometimes even deep clay soils. But there is good news! You can have a garden that copes with the tough local conditions without compromising on design: using resilient, local coastal native plant species.

This guide will show you how to utilise the fantastic variety of local coastal native plants available to make an attractive and functional garden. This step-by-step guide will help you decide which plants are most suitable for a given area or purpose, how to incorporate them in different landscape designs, maintenance tips and where to buy.

You will find out which plants should be avoided to prevent their spread as invasive weeds in coastal environments. We hope you will be inspired and encouraged to grow local coastal native plants in your garden for the many benefits they provide, as well as replace potentially invasive plants with recommended local alternatives.

Using local coastal native plants in your coastal garden is an easy and rewarding way to look after our environment. We hope you enjoy discovering your local plants. Happy gardening!
Local, or indigenous plants, are species that would naturally occur in your area so they have evolved to suit local conditions.

Local plants have a huge range of benefits
- Low maintenance
- Drought tolerant (require minimal watering = conserves our water supplies)
- Many ‘wet’ adapted species grow in low-lying wet coastal areas
- Don’t need fertilisers or pesticides
- Provide habitat, food and shelter for local fauna including birds, butterflies and lizards
- Save you money and time
- Adaptable for various landscaping designs, producing striking results
- Native plants flower at different times of the year so you can have a flowering garden all year round.

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

Key environmental benefits of native species are identified pictorially throughout this guide.

- Attracts butterflies and/or native insects
- Used by native mammals
- Attracts native birds
- Edible *
- Traditional use (includes plants used for making weapons, medicinal purposes, fire-making etc)

* Many plants are poisonous. Ensure accurate species identification before tasting.
How to use local plants

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

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

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

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

Information on caring for local plants is provided on pages 30–31.
Weeds are plants growing where they aren’t wanted, and there are more than just bindiis and thistles! Some plants escape from gardens and become serious environmental weeds which pose a major threat to the health and value of our natural environments.

Environmental weeds are trouble!
- They threaten our local native plants and environment by smothering and outcompeting
- Choke up waterways and affect water quality entering the ocean
- Harbour pest animals such as foxes and feral cats which prey on native wildlife
- Can impact biodiversity
- Garden escapees 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, South Africa and South America. Thriving in similar conditions, they outcompete 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 escapees, 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.

Some weeds are officially listed as “Declared” in Queensland under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002. Control of these species is a legal responsibility of landowners. Further information is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.
Have a 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
- Contact your local council to learn more about identifying and controlling garden escapees
- Get involved in looking after our coast. Join a local landcare or wildlife group (some are listed at the end of this booklet). Alternatively, check check the web, local directories or Council.

Be aware that different weeds need to be controlled by different methods. There are physical, biological and chemical methods for controlling weeds.

Weeds can be pulled by hand or sprayed with herbicides. However in the case of larger weeds, it is often best to cut the weed down to a stump and paint the cut area within 20 seconds with herbicide.

Trees can be injected with herbicide or an area of bark scraped off and painted within 20 seconds with herbicide.

Aquatic plants, grasses and sedges

DON’T PLANT a garden escapee!

Yellow / Mexican Water Lily *Nymphaea mexicana*
Native to Mexico. Attached perennial with round wavy olive floating leaves often crowded and sitting above the waterline with bright yellow flowers. Produces vertical rhizomes, spread by humans and stolons which break off easily. Blocks waterways and quickly crowds out other plants.

Parrots Feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
Native to South America. Emergent aquatic perennial with leaves in whorls of 4-6 around stems, blue green and finely toothed. Spread by humans and broken off plant pieces. Forms dense mats in and around waterways smothering other water plants and restricting recreational activities.

Dense Water Weed *Egeria densa and other fishtank/pond species*
Native to South America. Submerged aquatic with thin curled down green/brown leaves to 4cm in whorls of 4-5 on stems up to 1.5m long. Spread by plant fragments, popular fish tank plant. Becomes a dense mat blocking waterways and outcompeting other vegetation.

Fountain Grass *Pennisetum setaceum - Declared*
Native to NE Africa. Densely tufting perennial grass to 1m. Flower heads are a feathery brown/purple spike produced throughout most of the year. Spread by seed wind, water and humans. Found along drainage lines, creeks and roadsides. Becomes a dense stand outcompeting native vegetation.

Saw Sedges *Gahnia aspera / siberiana / clarkei*
Leafy clump forming sedge to 3m. Sharp saw toothed edges, blue/white undersides. Flower spikes reddish turning almost black. Invades swampy moist sites.

Knobby Club-rush *Ficinia nodosa* (formerly *Isolepis nodosa*)
Clumping sedge common to coastal and foreshore areas. Grows to 90cm, produces distinctive clustered inflorescences just below the tips of the stems.
**GROW ME** instead

**Water Snowflake** *Nymphoides indica / Swamp lily* *Ottelia ovalifolia*
Long-lived attached aquatic with rounded surface floating leaves. Small white fringed flowers to 2.5cm from Sept-April. Propagates from old leaves producing small plantlets.

**Bacopa** *Bacopa monnieri*
Prostrate fleshy long lived herb forming dense mats along creeks and lagoons. Leaves paired to 2cm. Single tubular white to pale blue flowers from spring to autumn. Excellent bank stabiliser (Beware exotic look-alikes!)

**Bladderwort** *Utricularia aurea / Potamogeton tricarinatu*
Submerged aquatic carnivorous plant forming floating mats below water surface. Yellow flowers produced above the water from Nov-June.

**Kangaroo Grass** *Themeda triandra*
Soft leaved tufting grass, light green turning brown in winter to 40cm. Pendulous bunched pointed seed heads to 1.5m from spring to summer. Well drained soils, sun to shade. Tolerates mowing.

**Swamp Foxtail** *Baloskion tetraphyllum / B. pallens*
Perennial herb with erect rounded stems to 1.5m. Stems end in soft, fine branches giving the appearance and texture of fox tails. Spreads by rhizomes. Prefers damp areas.

**Twigrushes** *Baumea teretifolia / B. rubiginosa*
Smooth-stemmed sedge growing to about 1m with brown seed heads. Creamy-yellow to mauve flowers from late winter to spring. Prefers moist soils. Spreads from an underground rhizome.
**DON’T PLANT** a garden escapee!

**Singapore Daisy** *Sphagnetica trilobata* - Declared

**Red Salvia** *Salvia coccinea*
Native to South East USA. Soft herb to 1m with square, softly hairy stems and leaf undersides. Paired toothed mildly aromatic leaves. Produces red tubular flower spikes in spring/summer. Invades foreshore understory and urban bushland.

**Glory Lily** *Gloriosa superba*
Native to Africa and Asia. Perennial herb with underground tubers and climbing stems up to 4m long. Flowers bright, yellow, orange or red, with “petals” turned back to expose the stamens. Flowers October–May. Declared Fraser Island only.

**Purple Succulent** *Callisia fragrans*
Native of Mexico. A dense spreading groundcover with fleshy green leaves and purple undersides to 30cm in a rosette like cluster. Spreads by seed, runners and garden waste. Found in shaded areas in urban bushland, roadsides, foreshore and gardens. Smothers and excludes understorey plants.

**Zebrina / Purple Wandering Dew** *Tradscantia zebrina*

**Asparagus Fern** *Asparagus aethiopicus* ‘Sprengeri’- Declared
**GROW ME instead**

**Guinea Flower** *Hibbertia scandens*
Vigorous climber or scrambler growing to 2m. Yellow buttercup-like flowers to 6cm from spring to summer. Tolerates a wide range of climates including salt laden winds. Prefers well-drained soils.

**Vanilla Lily** *Sowerbea juncea*
Tufted grass-like perennial to 45cm. Pink/purple vanilla scented clusters of star shaped flowers in Spring. Prefers well drained moist sandy soil in full sun. Propagate by division.

**Christmas Bells** *Blandfordia grandiflora*
Perennial with long narrow reed like leaves to 50cm. Showy clusters of waxy red and yellow tipped bell flowers in summer. Flowers in third year. Prefers well drained but moist peaty soils in full sun to light shade.

**Coastal Pigface** *Carpobrotus glaucescens*
Creeping succulent with angular fleshy leaves. Purple/pink flowers to 6cm throughout the year. Edible, salty-sweet, reddish fruit. Prefers well-drained sandy soils. Excellent stabiliser.

**Forest Violet** *Lobelia membranacea*
Dainty prostrate sprawling herb to 50cm wide. Tiny ovate leaves to 5mm. Pale blue flowers spring-summer. Prefers damp soil, frost hardy.

**Mat Rush** *Lomandra confertifolia*
Hardy, tufted clumping habit with flat grass-like leaves to 70cm. Produces creamy-yellow flowers on a spike at the centre of the plant, winter to spring. Adaptable to most soils in open shaded areas. Good foliage contrast, back filler.
## Midyim Berry *Austromyrtus dulcis*
Spreading growth to 1m with small aromatic leaves and pinkish new growth. Flowers small white five petalled throughout summer. Edible speckled, mauve-white soft skinned berries. Responds well to regular pruning. Excellent border or hedge, especially when mass planted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blue Flax-Lily <em>Dianella caerulea</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tufting grass like herb with green strap like leaves. Blue/purple often pendulous star shaped flower spikes and blue/purple berries throughout the year. Hardy, adaptable full sun-shade. Excellent in rockeries, mass planting or as a filler.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yellow Buttons <em>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</em></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prostrate sprawling herb to 10cm and up to 1m wide. Silvery grey hairy leaves with clusters of yellow papery flowers spring to summer. Adaptable to most soils, prefers full to dappled sun, frost hardy.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Golden Wedge Pea <em>Gomphilobium virgatum</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twiggy shrub to 1m produces large bright yellow pea flowers to 20mm from late winter to spring. Prefers drier soils and moderate sunshine.</td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goodenia Species <em>Goodenia rotundifolia / G.paniculata / G.stelligera</em></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small herbs with clumping or prostrate trailing habit. Sprays of bright yellow flowers spring to autumn. Adaptable to most soils, tolerates shade.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GROW ME instead

**Wallum Grevillea** *Grevillea leiophylla / G. reptans*
Dwarf Grevillea with trailing habit grows 0.5-1m with slender grey green divided leaves to 12cm. Dusty pink flowers spring to autumn. Prefers damp sandy soils in full sun to part shade.

**Guinea Flower** *Hibbertia linearis*
Variable habit from 50cm to 1.5m. Slender lime green leaves to 3cm. Flowers bright yellow to 4cm in spring. Prefers well-drained sandy soils in part shade.

**Native Iris** *Patersonia sericea / P. fragilis*
Clumping strap-like leaves to 50cm. Flowers with three deep violet petals winter to spring and after good rain. Prefers full sun for best flowering and well drained soils. *P. fragilis* prefers swampy conditions.

**Queensland Wax Flower** *Philotheca queenslandica*
Low slender habit to 80cm. Short waxy leaves. Brilliant five petalled wax flowers erupt profusely from winter to spring. Adaptable to most soils, prefers full sun to part shade.

**Slender Rice Flower** *Pimelia linifolia*
Prostrate to slender erect habit to 60cm. Two pairs of opposite linear leaves to 3cm. Terminal clusters of white/pink flowers mainly winter and spring. Adaptable to most soils, frost tolerant, shade to full sun.

**Hairy Bush-pea** *Pultenaea villosa*
Dense, weeping shrub to 2m with soft hairy foliage and reddish new growth. Masses of bright yellow pea-shaped flowers with red centres mainly from spring to summer. Adaptable to most soils, sun-part shade. Excellent feature plant.
**Climbing Asparagus Asparagus plumosus - Declared**
Climbing stems to 8m with spines to 1cm. Fine dark green needle-like leaves, orange/black berries. Spread by birds, water and garden waste. Invades vine forests, foreshore and urban bushland.

**Coastal Morning Glory Ipomoea cairica / Blue Morning Glory I.indica**
Vigorous twining climber. Large funnel shaped purple flowers in summer. Spread by water, garden waste. Found along roadsides, waterways and on vacant land. I.cairica has pink flowers. Smothers native vegetation. Declared Fraser Island only.

**Coral Creeper Baleria repens**
Creeper or scrambler up to 2m. Easily roots at each joint/node. Tubular flowers pink/red summer to autumn. Spreads by wind, water and dumped garden waste. Becomes dense mat on ground and over plants. Invades urban bushland, foreshores and waterways.

**Black-Eyed Susan Thunbergia alata**
Native to Africa. Twining vine to 5m. Flowers bright orange with a black/brown centre (sometimes white). Spread by water and dumped garden waste. Found along roadsides, waterways and in urban bushland.

**Flame Vine Pyrostegia ignea syn. P.venusta**
Abundant clusters of large tubular bright orange flowers in winter. Smothers native vegetation.

**Don’t Plant**

**Blue Trumpet Vine Thunbergia grandiflora - Declared**
Native to India and South China. Vigorous twining long lived vine. Large trumpet-shaped pale blue flowers with white throats form in clusters. Large tuberous root system. Found in gardens, roadsides waterways and urban bushland. Smothers native vegetation.
GROW ME instead

**Native Lilac** *Hardenbergia violacea*
Attractive climber, trailing pot-plant or small shrub. Dark green leaves with squared off base, sprays of bright purple pea flowers flowers from winter to early spring. Full sun to shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.

**Dusky Coral Pea** *Kennedia rubicunda*
Prostrate or climbing vigorous twiner to 4m. Clusters of large deep red pea flowers to 4cm winter and spring. Found along bushland edges. Grows in disturbed areas, adaptable to most soils, best in full sun.

**Wombat Berry / Orange-Vine** *Eustrephus latifolius*
Hardy slender twiner with wiry stems to 6m. Clusters of showy white to pale pink star shaped flowers spring to summer. Requires support by tying, prefers shaded position in most soils.

**Fraser Island Creeper** *Tecomanthe hillii*
Vigorous climber with pink tubular flowers on old wood in spring. Grows and flowers best in full sun. Prefers free draining but moist soils. Propagation by cuttings or seed.

**Native Hoya** *Hoya australis*
Slow growing trailing twiner with waxy cream clusters of flowers. Grows in sun or semi-shade in well drained soils. Suitable for hanging baskets, along fences and as a understorey creeper. Avoid pruning old flowering points as this is where new flowers will occur. Propagation from cuttings.

**Native Wisteria** *Callerya megasperma* syn *Millettia megasperma*
Vigorous woody climber with glossy leaves. Produces masses of hanging sprays of lilac pea-shaped flowers to 15cm in spring (similar to exotic Wisteria spp.). Sun to part shade in moist soils, frost tolerant. Excellent trellis plant for pergolas etc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Medium shrubs</strong></th>
<th><img src="image5x556.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image144x556.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image388x556.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image551x556.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image633x556.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image797x556.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image196x524.png" alt="Image" /> <img src="image295x524.png" alt="Image" /></th>
<th><strong>DON’T PLANT</strong> a garden escapee!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Mickey Mouse Plant** *Ochna serrulata*  
Native of South Africa. Common in older gardens growing to 2.5m tall. Flowers yellow producing 4-6 green to black berries surrounded by bright red ‘sepal’. Spread by birds and garden waste. Thriving in native and urban bushland, roadsides, foreshore and waterways. Declared Fraser Island only. | ![Image](image250x556.png) ![Image](image319x556.png) ![Image](image421x556.png) ![Image](image562x556.png) ![Image](image667x556.png) ![Image](image806x556.png) ![Image](image849x556.png) ![Image](image907x556.png) | |
| **Shoe Button** *Ardisia elliptica*  
Native of South East Asia. Shade tolerant single trunked, branching habit to 3m. Produces clusters of pinkish-white star shape flowers throughout the year. Masses of red-black berries rapidly spread by birds, mammals and dumped garden waste forming dense stands suppressing regrowth in local bushland, mangroves and wetlands. | ![Image](image100x556.png) ![Image](image184x556.png) ![Image](image268x556.png) ![Image](image352x556.png) ![Image](image436x556.png) ![Image](image520x556.png) ![Image](image604x556.png) ![Image](image688x556.png) | |
| **Purple Joyweed** *Alternanthera brasiliana*  
Native to Central and South America. Commonly cultivated fast-growing soft sprawling herb to 60cm with glossy dark purple/red oval leaves. Easily spread by dumped garden waste, cuttings and seeds into urban bushland, wetlands and roadsides. | ![Image](image100x556.png) ![Image](image184x556.png) ![Image](image268x556.png) ![Image](image352x556.png) ![Image](image436x556.png) ![Image](image520x556.png) ![Image](image604x556.png) ![Image](image688x556.png) | |
| **Pigeon Berry** *Duranta erecta*  
Native to Central and South America. Slightly spiny to 4-7m. Clusters of light purple-white tubular flowers and clusters of yellow/orange toxic fruit. Common garden and hedge plant spread by birds, bats and water. | ![Image](image100x556.png) ![Image](image184x556.png) ![Image](image268x556.png) ![Image](image352x556.png) ![Image](image436x556.png) ![Image](image520x556.png) ![Image](image604x556.png) ![Image](image688x556.png) | |
| **Common Indian Hawthorn** *Rhaphiolepis indica*  
Native to Southern China. Grows 1-4m tall with clusters of white-pink flowers in spring. Bluish-black berries in summer. Spread by birds, water and humans. Commonly grown ornamental garden plant, increasingly found in bushland areas and along waterways. | ![Image](image100x556.png) ![Image](image184x556.png) ![Image](image268x556.png) ![Image](image352x556.png) ![Image](image436x556.png) ![Image](image520x556.png) ![Image](image604x556.png) ![Image](image688x556.png) | |
| **Sisal Hemp** *Agave sisalana*  
Native to Mexico. Tough succulent that suckers from the base and produces bulbils. Flowers are cream clusters on a long central stem to over 5m. Found on foreshores, roadsides and vacant land, rapidly forming dense stands. Declared Fraser Island only. | ![Image](image100x556.png) ![Image](image184x556.png) ![Image](image268x556.png) ![Image](image352x556.png) ![Image](image436x556.png) ![Image](image520x556.png) ![Image](image604x556.png) ![Image](image688x556.png) | |
Lolly Bush *Clerodendrum floribundum*
Single trunked, rounded canopy. Fragrant white tubular flowers spring to summer. Fruits from March to December with large round glossy black berries surrounded by red calyx. Grows in most soils.

Hairy Pittosporum *Pittosporum revolutum*
Single trunked compact habit growing to 4m. Clusters of creamy flowers winter to spring. Orange/yellow rounded warty capsules opening up to reveal red sticky seeds from autumn to winter.

Thyme-Leafed Honey Myrtle *Melaleuca thymifolia*
Compact rounded growth to 1m. Mauve flower clusters in summer and sporadically throughout the year. Adapted to most soil types, will tolerate periodic wet soils in sun or part shade. Responds well with regular tip pruning after flowering.

Wild May *Leptospermum polygalifolium*
Rounded habit to 4m. Small aromatic narrow oblong leaves with masses of white flowers late spring to summer. Responds well to regular pruning. Adapted to most soils. Flowers best in full to dappled sun.

Phebalium *Phebalium woombye*
Upright habit to 2m. Narrow green leaves with white rusty sheen to undersides and flower buds. White clustered star-shaped flowers winter to spring. Prefers well drained sandy soils.

River Lily *Crinum pendunculatum / C. angustifolium*
Hardy clumping habit with large fleshy strap-like leaves to 1m. Clusters of large scented white flowers from spring to summer. Adaptable to most soils and conditions. Tolerates frost and salt laden winds. Crushed leaves relieve marine jellyfish stings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medium shrubs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prickly Moses</strong> <em>Acacia hubbardiana</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open rounded shrub to 2m. Small stiff prickly triangular shaped leaves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cream ball flowers from late winter to spring. Adaptable to most soil types,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>will tolerate poorly drained soils. Responds well to light pruning to shape.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Heath Aotus** *Aotus ericoides / A. lanigera*                              |
| Dense rounded bush to 2m. Producing long stems near the base and compact     |
| clusters of narrow and recurved leaves. Beautifully coloured bright yellow   |
| pea flowers with red throats from late winter to spring.                     |

| **Wallum And Swamp Grasstree** *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii, X.latifolia or X.fulva* |
| Older plants grow a distinctive trunk to 2m. Produce creamy white deeply     |
| scented flowers on long spikes from spring to summer. Prefers well drained    |
| soils. Swamp grasstree has wider lighter green leaves, no trunk and prefers   |
| damper soils.                                                                  |

| **Weeping Coast Myrtle** *Baeckea frutescens syn B.stenophylla*              |
| Dense habit to 3m with pendulous branchlets. Showy masses of tiny white      |
| five petalled flowers from spring to summer. Propagate by cuttings. Sun to    |
| part shade, moist sandy soils. Excellent hedge/screen. Responds well to light |
| pruning.                                                                      |

| **Swamp, Dwarf and Hairpin Banksias** *Banksia robur / B.oblongifolia / B.spinulsa* |
| Erect spreading habit to 2m. Showy cylindrical flowerheads to 18cm blue/green |
| to yellow/green from summer to winter. Hardy, tolerates frosts, adaptable to   |
| most soils, sunny swampy sites. No fertiliser. B. spinulsa multi-stemmed to   |
| 3m with reddish to yellow flowers.                                            |

| **Chain Fruit** *Alyxia ruscifolia*                                         |
| Upright habit to 3m. Showy white perfumed star shaped flowers in summer.    |
| Orange/red berries often forming a chain in autumn. Full sun to heavy shade.|
| Good feature and pot plant, responds well to light pruning.                 |
Hopbush *Dodonaea viscosa subsp. burmanniana*
Woody erect bushy habit to 5m. Flowers in terminal clusters from August to November. Fruit showy red/brown 2-3 winged papery capsules winter to summer. Hardy, well drained soil, full sun to part shade. Responds well to light pruning.

**Pointed Leaf Hovea** *Hovea acutifolia*
Erect slender habit to 1.5m. Rusty hairs along stems and under leaves. Elliptical green stiff leaves. Clusters of showy dark purple pea-flowers winter to spring. Prefers well drained soil, part shade. Short lived.

**Wallum Bottlebrush** *Melaleuca pachyphylia var. viridis*
Light multi-stemmed habit to 1.5m. Lime green bottle brush flowers to 10cm from spring to autumn. Hardy, tolerates poor drainage in full sun.

**Boobialla** *Myoporum acuminatum / M.boninense*
Groundcover growing 30cm high to 5m wide. Small green leaves, dainty white or pale purple flowers from spring to summer. Good soil stabiliser and trailer down rock walls. Sensitive to coastal exposure. Shelter for small lizards.

**Blue Tongue / Nunyi-um** *Melastoma malabathricum*
*syn. M.affine (Pink or White flower)*
Low rounded habit to 2m. Clusters of showy 5cm pink/mauve flowers from April to January and sporadically throughout the year. Edible dark purple/red fruits in December. Sun-shade, frost tender, prefers well composted moist soils.

**Wedding Bush** *Ricinocarpus pinifolius*
Dense rounded habit to 2m. Showy masses of white 2.5cm wide flowers in spring. Full sun to dappled shade. Well drained mulched soil. Difficult to propagate.
**Small to medium trees**

**DON’T PLANT** a garden escapee!

**Broad-Leaved Pepper Tree** *Schinus terebinthifolius* - Declared
Native of South America. Multi stemmed, 3m to 7m tall, readily suckers. Cream flowers in autumn. Shiny red berries in winter. Spread by water, birds and garden waste. Pollen may cause allergies. All parts of the plant toxic. Found along stream banks, wetlands and coastal dunes areas, becoming dominant species if not controlled.

**Brazillian Cherry** *Eugenia uniflora*
Native to South America, dense rounded habit grows 3-6m high. Succulent ribbed orange/red fruits spread by birds, small mammals and water into urban bushland, roadsides and waterways. Forms dense stands outcompeting native plants.

**Easter Cassia** *Senna pendula var. glabrata*
Native to tropical America. Rounded bush grows 1.5 to 5m with mid green compound leaves and rounded leaflets. Yellow flowers in Autumn and Winter. Produces long rounded pea-like pods and easily colonises disturbed areas and invades bushland. Declared Fraser Island only.

**Captain Cook Tree** *Cascabela thevetia* syn *T. Peruviana* - Declared
Native to tropical South America. Spreading about 2-5m with yellow bell flowers. Rounded triangular hard green-black fruit. All parts poisonous if ingested. Seeds spread by water and dumped garden waste. Found in dense stands along water ways and coastal areas.

**Leucaena / Coffee Bush** *Leucaena leucocephala*
Native to Central America. Grows to 10m or more. Creamy white flowers in dense round clusters and long flattened red/brown pods. Used as a fodder plant. Forms dominant stands along creeks, drainage channels and bushland.

**Yellow Bells** *Tecoma stans* - Declared
Native to tropical America. Branched tree 1.5 to 5m tall with rough, furrowed brown bark. Clusters of yellow tubular flowers in Spring. Long narrow seed pods with winged papery seeds spread by wind, water and garden waste. Found along roadsides, vacant land and water ways.
**Coast Canthium / Supple Jack**  *Cyclophyllum coprosmoides*

**Beach Aspen**  *Acronychia imperforata / Hard Aspen A. laevis*
Broad spreading tree to 15m. Cream clusters of four petalled flowers summer to autumn. Sour edible yellow fleshy pear-shaped fruits from winter to spring. Adaptable to most soils, full sun to shade. *A.laevis* leaves glossy, aromatic when crushed, fruit is red/purple, fleshy, flattened.

**Muttonwood**  *Myrsine variabilis*
Single trunked with dense narrow canopy to 12m. Small cream bell-flowers along branches winter to spring. Round purple fruit from November to March. Adaptable to most soils, sun to shade.

**Irish Wattle / Whipstick Wattle**  *Acacia oshanesii / A. attenuata*
Fast growing to 7m with graceful arching branches. Creamy lemon ball flowers from winter to spring and sporadically throughout the year. Prefers moist soils as naturally occurs on higher ground along creeks.

**Wallum Banksia**  *Banksia aemula / Coast Banksia B. integrifolia*
Dense rounded habit with heavy trunk grows to 8m. Creamy yellow cylindrical flowerheads to 20cm from autumn to winter. Prefers well drained soils, but tolerates poor drainage on sandy soils.
DON’T PLANT a garden escapee!

**Cadagi Corymbia torelliana**
A native of North Queensland. Tree to 30m. Clusters of white flowers in Spring. Seeds spread by wind, water, insects and garden waste. Resin can detrimentally affect native bees. Prone to limb drop, shades out understorey plants. Found along roadsides, waterways and vacant land close to urban areas.

**Cocos Palm Syagrus romanzoffiana**
Native of South America. A single-stemmed palm that grows 12 to 20m. Feather-like fronds to 5m are retained on trunk for several months. Produces bunches of orange-yellow fruits in spring which are spread by flying foxes, birds, small mammals, water and garden waste. Invades bushland and along waterways.

**Racehorse Tree Tipuana tipu**
Native to South America. Fast growing tree to 30m. Many yellow pea shaped flowers in summer with winged fruit following. Seeds germinate readily and are spread easily by wind and water. Invades native bushland and along waterways.

**African Tulip Tree Spathodea campanulata - Declared**
Native of tropical West Africa. Fast growing to 24m. Flowers orange-red tulip shaped throughout the year. Large pods with papery seeds spread by wind and water. Reproduce by suckers. Invades creeks and gullies. Flowers potentially kill bees.

**Slash Pine Pinus elliotii / Radiata Pine Pradiata**
Native to the Americas and Mexico. Grows to 30m. *P. elliotii* has large symmetrical cones with prickles on tips and winged seeds, spread by wind and water, birds and garden waste. *P. radiata* cones egg shaped. Found on roadsides, urban bushland and woodland quickly forming dense stands.

**Umbrella Tree Schefflera actinophylla**
Native to North Queensland. Fast-growing, multi stemmed to 15m. Produces many dark red seeds on erect spikes in summer. Spread by birds and flying foxes. Roots invasive, damage paths, foundations and pipes. Invades bushland, along waterways, gardens and roadsides. Declared Fraser Island only.
GROW ME instead

Moreton Bay Ash *Corymbia tessellaris*
Graceful form to 25m. Masses of honey scented flowers in winter. Small rounded woody capsules/nuts. Adaptable to most soils, tolerates growth close to dunes. Excellent shade and feature tree.

Weeping Cabbage Palm *Livistona australis / L. decora*
Single trunked palm to 20m. Leaf stalks have spines along the margins. Flower spikes to 1m spring to summer. Black/red fruits. Adaptable to most soils, but prefers moist soils.

Tulipwood *Harpullia hillii*
Spreading rounded crown to 15m. Creamy flowers. Fruits opening to show red covered black seeds in winter. Excellent shade or feature tree. Adaptable to most soils, prefers deep well drained composted moist soils with protection from coastal winds.

Paper Bark / Soapy Tea Tree *Melaleuca quinquenervia / M. dealbata*
Grows to 20m. Creamy or red bottlebrush-like flowers from summer to winter. Adaptable but naturally found in moist swampy soils near the coast. *M. dealbata* to 20m, creamy-white flowers in cylindrical spikes, winter to summer.

Sheoak *Allocasuarina littoralis / Casuarina equisetifolia*
Rounded dense habit to 10m. Male flowers produce rusty flush at end of branchlets. Female flowers small red from autumn to spring. Woody cylindrical cones to 3cm. Hardy, tolerates coastal winds and salt spray. Adaptable to most well drained soils. Excellent screen or shelter belt.

Pink Euodia *Melicope elleryana syn Euodia elleryana*
Fast growing open canopy to 10m. Profuse star-shaped pink flowers borne along branches from old leaf axils. Hardy and adaptable, moist soil, flowers at two-three years old. Food plant of Blue Ulysses Butterfly.
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
Natural cottage garden design (front yard)

Trees & tall shrubs
- Paper Bark Tea Tree
- Beach Aspen
- Hopbush
- Wallum Banksia

Medium shrubs
- Wild May Or Wedding Bush
- Phebalium
- Heath Aotus
- Prickly Moses

Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs
- Blue Flax-lily
- Goodenia
- Vanilla Lily
- Native Iris
- Yellow Buttons¹
- Wallum Grevillea
- Hairy Bush-pea
- Forest Violet

Grasses & sedges
- Kangaroo Grass
- Saw Sedges
- Knobby Club-rush
- Swamp Foxtail

Climbers
- Native Lilac ²

1 Use yellow buttons in frontal space
2 Use native lilac against timber posts

Mulch

White wash sustainable pebble

Bench

Flat sleepers set in gravel to give boardwalk appearance

Recycled hardwood timber post, upright 2m high
Natural cottage garden design (backyard)

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

- Wallum Banksia

## Mounded area

- Compacted road base gravel with sustainably sourced ornamental gravel coating

## Mulch

## Medium shrubs

- Blue Tongue / Nunyi-um
- Phebalium
- Grasstree

## Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs

- Pigface
- Hairy Bush-pea
- Guinea Flower
- Midyim Berry
- Vanilla Lily
- Blue Flax-lily
- Goodenia
- Slender Rice Flower

## Grasses and sedges

- Knobby Club-rush

## Stepping stones

- Using 100 x 200 mm recycled red brick pavers

## 100 x 200 mm recycled red brick pavers

## Climbers

- Native Lilac
- Wombat Berry / Orange-vine or Native Hoya
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.
Mulch

Bench

110mm x 220mm linear paver divider

Birdbath feature

14mm dolomite gravel

500mm x 500mm charcoal pavers

### Medium shrubs
- Pointed Leaf Hovea
- Hopbush
- Wedding Bush or Wild May
- Phebalium
- Grasstree

### Ground covers, herbs & small shrubs
- Hairy Bush-pea
- Yellow Buttons
- Slender Rice Flower or Wallum Grevillea

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

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

| Wallum Banksia |

### Medium shrubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hopbush</th>
<th>Weeping Coast Myrtle or Hairpin Banksia</th>
<th>Phebalium</th>
<th>Boobialla</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wallum Grevillea</th>
<th>Chloanthes</th>
<th>Blue Flax-lily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Grasses and sedges

| Knobby Club-rush |

### Climbers

| Native Lilac |

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**Shrub border**

**Birdbath or sculpture**

**Brick or concrete or steel or timber edging**

**Sleeper or brick edging**

**Mulch**

**Large format pavers**
Growing local coastal plants

When to plant

With the subtropical climate, planting can be done almost anytime. The ideal time is after rains when the soil is moist.

Watering

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

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

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

Mulch and gravels

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

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

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

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. Generally plants may need re-potting every one to two years.

You can help the environment by using sustainable and locally sourced materials, and avoiding materials taken from natural ecosystems, such as moss rocks, river stones, fallen logs and red gum mulch. More information on sustainable landscaping can be found on the Sustainable Gardening Australia website www.sgaonline.org.au

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

Details for specialist native plant nurseries can be found at www.sgapqld.org.au/growers.html. Alternatively you can contact Fraser Coast Regional Council or the Burnett Mary Regional Group for additional information.

Keep an eye out for local plant giveaways which are sometimes run by your council at various community events – these will be advertised in your local newspaper and are extremely popular!
Useful resources

Websites

- Michael Lowe Environmental Services website www.cooloolanativeplants.com.au
- Noosa’s Native Plants website www.noosasnativeplants.com.au
- Weeds Australia: www.weeds.org.au
- Burnett Mary Regional Group website www.bmrg.org.au

Books

- Eucalyptus of the Sunshine Coast and the Coast from Bundaberg to Coffs Harbour, T. Bean (1995)
- Rainforest Climbing Plants, A field guide to their identification, G. Harden, B. McDonald, J. Williams (2007)
- Rainforests Trees and Shrubs, A field guide to their identification, G. Harden, B. McDonald, J. Williams (2006)
- Field guide to the eucalypts of the Gympie, Imbil and Maryborough Forestry Districts, M. Podberscek (1993)
- Beach Plants of South Eastern Australia, P. Carolin & P. Clarke (1991)

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Fraser Coast Regional Council
Postal address: PO Box 1943,
Hervey Bay, QLD 4655
Phone 1300 79 49 29
Fax (07) 4197 4455
Email enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Burnett Mary Regional Group
Street Address: 193 Bourbong Street
Bundaberg, QLD 4670
Postal Address: PO Box 501
Bundaberg, QLD 4670
Phone (07) 4181 2999
Fax (07) 4154 1427
Email admin@bmrg.org.au

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