

# Your garden

## Living with Nature on your Doorstep

All residents of The Fair need to obtain permission from their body corporate for new plantings and landscape changes. Below are some handy ideas for planning your proposal.

**The Australian Native Plant Society** holds a plant sale twice a year at the Botanic Gardens.

You can purchase 70mm tubes, 90 mm tubes and 140 mm pots of climbers, ferns, container plants, grasses, groundcovers, herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees.

[www.nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](http://www.nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

### Plants to be encouraged

The following plants are known to thrive in Canberra Gardens. They are small, waterwise and will attract beautiful birds and insects to your garden. For more ideas the Yarralumla nursery, Greening Australia and Canberra Native Plants Society all provide excellent advice about plants that will suit your taste, your garden and your proximity to a nature reserve.

### Kitchen Plants

Because of the limited spaces in residential gardens, hardy kitchen garden plants, such as Rosemary and Lavender, are highly recommended. Not only do they provide beautiful aromas in the garden and a fresh herb supply for the kitchen, they also provide an excellent food source for stingless native bees.



Hardy kitchen garden plants look beautiful and liven up any kitchen

### Groundcovers

Woolly Grevillea - *Grevillea lanigera*

Bronze Rambler - *Grevillea* x

Twin Peaks - *Baccharis pilularis*

Break O' Day Daisy - *Brachycome multifida*

Moroccan Glory Vine - *Convolvulus sabatius*

Yellow Buttons- *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

Badja Capet – *Kunzea* sp

Roundleaf Correa - *Correa reflexa* var. *nummulariifolia*

Dwarf Native Myrtle - *Myoporum parvifolium*

Sunfan Scaevola - *Scaevola aemula*

### Grasses and Flax

Spiny-headed Mat-rush -

*Lomandra longifolia*

Tasmanian Flax Lily - *Dianella tasmanica*

### Shrubs

Correa Canberra Bells - *Correa* x

Agapanthus- *Agapanthus* sp

Diosma- *Coleonema* sp

Dwarf Grevillea - *Grevillea diminuta*

Royal or Mountain Grevillea- *Grevillea victoriae*

Scaly Phebalium - *Phebalium squamulosum* var. *argenteum*

Purple Coral Pea, Mini Ha Ha - *Hardenbergia violacea*

Hebe - *Hebe* sp



Woolly Grevillea *Grevillea lanigera*. Courtesy Brian Walters.



Bronze Rambler *Grevillea* x. Courtesy Brian Walters.



Diosma *Coleonema* sp. come in a range of colours and shapes. Courtesy Yvonne Best



Scaly Phebalium *Phebalium squamulosum* var. *argenteum*. Courtesy Brian Walters.



The versatile and easy to keep Hebe comes in a range of varieties, colours and sizes. Courtesy Plant Database.

## Some plants to be avoided in your garden

Weeds are simply plants growing in the wrong place - and some of these are very tenacious and difficult to control once they get a strong foothold. When they "go bush", weeds smother native plants and deprive animals and insects of much needed food and shelter. By avoiding the following plants in your garden you can help protect Mt Majura Nature Reserve.



**Blue Periwinkle** *Vinca major*. This creeping plant was introduced as a garden ornamental and has since escaped into many of our nature reserves. Its broad-leafed runners form a dense mat that smothers other plants out-competing them for moisture, light, nutrients and space. It can grow easily from stem segments, so contaminated garden waste should be disposed of carefully.

**Berberis** *Berberis thunbergii* and cultivars. A popular green/purple shrub, it is highly invasive and tends to naturalise in bushland. The berries are edible and birds will disperse the seed in their droppings. Non-fruit bearing cultivars are fine to plant.



**Chinese Fountain Grass** *Pennisetum alopecuroides*. Also known as foxtail grass and swamp foxtail grass. The tufts reach 1 metre high and have distinctive plumes when in flower. Clinging seeds heads are caught in clothing and animal fur and are easily spread this way.

**Coast or Blue Tussock Grass** *Poa poiformis*. A dense tussock-forming grass, with a bluish-green appearance. While it is native to coastal southern Australia, it is considered invasive and competes with other native grasses on Mt Majura.



**Couch Grass** *Cynodon dactylon*. Also known as Bermuda Grass, Devil's Grass, Florida Grass and Twitch Grass. It is low-growing with grey-green leaves and runners which root readily. It spreads rapidly and even small fragments will root if dumped with garden refuse.

**Japanese Bloodgrass** *Imperata cylindrical*. Also known as Blady Grass, Cogon Grass and Kunai Grass. It is a tall grass with silky white seed heads. The Ornamental varieties often have red leaves. It spreads through windborne seeds and underground runners.



**Morning Glory or Silverbush** *Convolvulus cneorum*. A hardy vine-like groundcover with white trumpet-shaped flowers. It is frost tolerant and will grow in rocky and drought conditions. It is highly invasive and easily smothers other plants.

**Nandina** *Nandina domestica*. Also known as Heavenly or Sacred Bamboo. It can be spread by wildlife or runners. It forms dense thickets that displace native vegetation and is listed as a number one invader in several countries. All parts of the plant are poisonous and the berries may be toxic to cats and grazing animals. Non-fruit bearing cultivars are fine to plant.



**Ox Eye Daisy** *Leucanthemum vulgare*. This showy garden escapee has branched stems and can be confused with the Shasta Daisy, *Leucanthemum maximum*. It spreads through numerous seeds and runners.

**Rosemary Grevellia** *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*. Although native to central west NSW and VIC, this plant is an environmental weed in the ACT. It forms dense clumps that can smother patches of native grassland and take over the shrub layer of open woodlands. It also has a tendency to hybridise with local native species - threatening the survival of rarer species.



**Snowy River Wattle** *Acacia boormanii*. Originally native to the upper Snowy River, it has been introduced to warmer areas through plantings in home gardens and nature strips. It is fast growing and invasive, spreading by root suckering.