



# Whitsunday Plants Suitable for Gardens

## What are Local Native Plants?

Local native plants are those that are indigenous to the Whitsunday region. There are many local native plants that can be used instead of exotic (introduced) plants or even those native to other parts of Australia.

## Why Use Local Native Plants?

Local native plants are often better adapted to local conditions and also provide a natural food source for animals, birds and insects. It is important to plant a variety of plants to supply nectar, fruit and seeds to native animals.



Below: *Cajanus reticulatus*, a low, dense shrub provides seeds to native animals.  
Photo: P. Alden



Above: *Melicope elleryana* provides nectar, and later seeds to native animals. Photo: D. Peplinkhouse

There are attractive grasses, ground covers, small to medium shrubs and small trees with colourful flowers, wonderful aromas or unusual fruit.



Lomandra (above; Native Gardenia (above right); Native Rosella (right)).  
Photos: P. Alden



*Wedelia spilanthoides*  
Photo: C. Peterson

Native plants are also far less likely than exotic (non-native) plants to become environmental weeds. Native *Wedelia* (pictured left) does not have the invasive qualities of the similar in appearance declared weed Singapore Daisy.

## Things to Consider When Planning Your Garden:

Where space is limited such as in household gardens, under power lines and near driveways and buildings, there is a need to use plants that will not become a menace to neighbours or damage infrastructure. It is important to consider the mature size of plants, including width, height and how extensive the roots systems will become.

Figs in particular (*Ficus* species) should not be planted near infrastructure.



Photo: D. Peplinkhouse



Photo: C. Peterson

*Melastoma affine* (left) is far more suited to smaller areas than is *Syzygium australe* - Creek Cherry (above)

The list on the following page provides some information on just a few of the plant species which may be suitable for different situations.



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<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Height (m)</u>	<u>Wet/Dry</u>	<u>Detail</u>
<i>Wedelia spilanthoides</i>	Native Wedelia	0.1	D	Bright yellow daisy flowers; great tumbling over rockeries etc.
<i>Abelmoschus moschatus</i>	Native Rosella	to 0.3	D	Trailing plant to 2m diameter, pink flower, dormant in dry season
<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>	Paper Daisy	0.3 to 1	WD	Bright yellow flowers
<i>Melastoma affine</i>	Blue tongue	0.5 to 3	W	Pink-mauve flowers with yellow anthers, prefers part shade
<i>Cajanus reticulatus</i>	Pigeon Pea	1	D	Perennial shrub with yellow pea like flowers
<i>Lomandra spp.</i>	Lomandra, Mat Rush	1	W	Tussocky, rush like plant, creamy flowers on spiny heads
<i>Cordyline</i>	Palm Lilly	1 to 3	W	Red berries, prefers shade
<i>Tabernaemontana orientalis</i>	Banana Bush	1 to 4	W/D	Perfumed flowers, orange curved fruit
<i>Crinum pedunculatum</i>	Swamp Lilly	to 2	W	Perfumed white flowers, perennial lilly
<i>Mackinlaya confusa</i>	Mackinlaya	2	W	Purplish flowers, bluish-grey fruit
<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	Coffee Bush	2 to 4	W/D	Prefers shade, red bird attracting berries
<i>Capparis canescens</i>	Wild Orange	2 to 4	W/D	Orange berries. Juvenile plants have thorns.
<i>Acacia decora</i>	Pretty Wattle	2 to 5	W/D	Perfumed bright yellow ball flowers in clusters
<i>Cassia brewsterii</i>	Leichhardt Bean	2 to 12	D	Dark green leaves, showy creamy yellow flowers
<i>Cordia subcordata</i>	Sea Trumpet	2 to 15	D/W	Orange trumpet flowers, shiny green leaves, dense shrub great for coastal planting
<i>Alyxia rusCIFolia</i>	Native Holly, Chainfruit	to 3	W	Perfumed white flowers, <i>toxic orange fruit</i>
<i>Cochlospermum gillivraei</i>	Kapok	3 to 12	D	Bright yellow flowers, deciduous
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>	Lolly Bush	3 to 5	W	White flowers, requires pruning for shape
<i>Archirhodomyrtus beckleri</i>	Pink Myrtle	4 to 6	W	White or pink fluffy flowers, bird attracting fruit
<i>Larkensaikia jardenii</i>	Native Gardenia	4 to 6	W	Scented, white flowers
<i>Melitia pinnata</i>	Pongamia	4 to 10	W/D	Pink-lilac flowers, deciduous, showy bronze new leaves, toxic
<i>Planchonia careya</i>	Cocky Apple	4 to 10	W/D	Large white flowers, green fruit eaten by cockatoos
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani	4 to 20	W	Sweetly perfumed flowers, fast growing
<i>Acacia holosericea</i>	Silver Wattle	to 5	W/D	Silver leaves, slender yellow flowers
<i>Acacia leptostachya</i>	Townsville Wattle	to 5	W/D	Often under 2m, golden yellow flower spikes
<i>Leea indica</i>	Bandicoot Berry	to 5	W	Semi to full shade, brownish purple berries
<i>Cassia tomentella</i>	Velvet Bean Tree	5 to 10	D	Dark green leaves, yellow flowers
<i>Lysiphyllum hookeri</i>	Hookers Bauhinia	5 to 10	D	White flowers, edged in red, deciduous shrub or small tree
<i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>	Peanut Tree	5 to 10	W/D	Orange to red fruit pods, shiny black edible seeds, deciduous
<i>Pipturus argenteus</i>	Native Mulberry	to 6	W	Sweet, white bird attracting fruit
<i>Randia chartacea</i>	Narrow Leafed Gardenia	to 6	W	Strongly perfumed white flowers, prefers shade and drainage
<i>Erythrina vespertilio</i>	Bat's Wing Coral Tree	6 to 10	W/D	Bright red flowers, deciduous, requires drainage
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Flame tree	6 to 15	W	Bright red flowers, deciduous before flowering
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Bottlebrush	6 to 8	W/D	Red bird attracting flowers
<i>Glochidion summatriannum</i>	Cheese tree	8	W	Reddish cheese wedge shaped fruit, bird attracting
<i>Harpulia pendula</i>	Tulipwood	8 to 15	W	Good shade tree, yellow to red fruit capsules
<i>Pittosporum ferrugineum</i>	Rusty Pittosporum	8 to 20	W	Needs good drainage, ample water, pretty foliage and fruit
<i>Omalanthus nudens</i>	Bleeding heart	10	W	Leaves turn red before dropping
<i>Acacia flavescens</i>	Yellow Wattle	to 10	W/D	Cream ball flowers
<i>Syzygium australe</i>	Lilly Pilly, Creek Cherry	to 10	W	Usually to 3 or 4m in cultivation, red edible fruit
<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Corkwood	12 to 20	W	Small to medium tree, pink flowers, food tree for Ulysses butterfly
<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	Fire Wheel Tree	to 15	W	Bright red flowers, slow growing
<i>Mallotus philipensis</i>	Red Kamala	to 20	W/D	Much smaller in drier areas, red fruit capsules