

2024 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants



Information Sheet 3: What are Indigenous Plants?

“Indigenous plants are plants that occur naturally in a local area, making them uniquely suited to their environment. Native plants are not considered to be indigenous when planted beyond their natural habitat”. (*Plants of Melbourne’s Western Plains: A Gardener’s Guide to the Original Flora*, 2012, page 32). A native plant means that a plant is native to anywhere in Australia. Whereas an indigenous plant occurs naturally in a given geographical area. It’s important for planting projects to use indigenous, rather than native plants. The indigenous plant species used should be those that occur naturally as near as possible to a project’s planting site, i.e. in areas with similar soils and site conditions. This will help preserve the populations of indigenous plant species locally and help re-create or enhance habitat for native animals.

Plant selection and habitat

Your Landcare or environmental volunteer group/network, local council, Landcare facilitator, or local indigenous plant nursery should be able to provide you with advice about the indigenous plants that occur naturally in your local area. This includes the indigenous plants suitable for your planting project and where to source the plants.

For advice and information about the indigenous plants found in a local area contact your:

- local council’s Environment Officer - find the contacts for your [council here](#).
- local Landcare or environmental volunteer group/network or Landcare facilitator. Find the contacts for your local group and/or Landcare facilitator by visiting the [environmental volunteering map](#). If the links in this interactive map do not include a link to details for your local Landcare or environmental volunteer group/network, including for your local Landcare facilitator, then contact your [Regional Landcare Coordinator](#) for these details.

When planning your planting project consider the best planting and weed control seasons, which plants are indigenous to your area, as well as bird attracting or butterfly attracting indigenous plant species that provide habitat. For planting projects consider using mulch or biodegradable weed mat to suppress weeds, help retain soil moisture, foster worm activity, and thereby assist with plant growth.

The greater the diversity and area of indigenous shrubs and grasses, the more food and vegetation cover (i.e. habitat) there will be for native birds, insects, and other native animals. For example, a clump of prickly indigenous shrubs may provide nesting habitat for small birds; local grasses might provide food for native butterfly larvae; using a natural depression for a small wetland might create habitat for frogs.

Links to local governments’ flora booklets/lists

Many local councils (on their websites) have flora booklets and/or lists of the indigenous plants that are found locally - see the table below. In the table when there aren’t links to a flora booklet/list on a local government’s website then links have instead been provided the SWIFT (State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams) [threatened flora by local government area](#).

Local Governments	Links to local flora booklets/lists
Alpine Shire Council	Threatened flora - Alpine Shire
Ararat Rural City Council	Threatened flora - Ararat Rural City
Ballarat City Council	Indigenous plants for Ballarat gardens
Banyule City Council	Banyule’s Indigenous Plants

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Bass Coast Shire Council	Indigenous Plants of Bass Coast Shire
Baw Baw Shire Council	Indigenous Plants of Baw Baw Shire
Bayside City Council	Threatened flora - Bayside City Bayside Community Nursery Plant List
Benalla Rural City Council	Threatened flora - Benalla Rural City
Boroondara City Council	Boroondara local flora
Brimbank City Council	Threatened flora - Brimbank City
Buloke Shire Council	Threatened flora - Buloke Shire
Campaspe Shire Council	Threatened flora - Campaspe Shire
Cardinia Shire Council	Cardinia indigenous plant guide
Casey City Council	Indigenous Plant Guide Casey
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Threatened flora - Central Goldfields Shire
Colac Otway Shire Council	Landscaping with native plants Gardens for Wildlife Booklet
Corangamite Shire Council	Indigenous planting guide
Darebin City Council	Plants for Darebin's Wildlife City of Darebin Gardens for Wildlife booklet
East Gippsland Shire Council	Revegetation Species Guide East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority - planting guides
Frankston City Council	Frankston City Council - Indigenous Plant Guide
Gannawarra Shire Council	Threatened flora - Gannawarra Shire
Glen Eira City Council	Indigenous plants of Glen Eira
Glenelg Shire Council	Threatened flora - Glenelg Shire
Golden Plains Shire Council	Indigenous Planting Guides
Greater Bendigo City Council	Indigenous Plants of Bendigo
Greater Dandenong City Council	City of Greater Dandenong biodiversity resources (includes indigenous plants guide)
Greater Geelong City Council	Indigenous plants of Greater Geelong region
Greater Shepparton City Council	Gardening with local native plants Flora from our 4 Bioregions Collection
Hepburn Shire Council	Indigenous plants for landscaping - Hepburn Shire
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Threatened flora - Hindmarsh Shire
Hobsons Bay City Council	Flora and Fauna in Hobsons Bay
Horsham Rural City Council	Rural Revegetation - Species Guide Threatened flora - Horsham Rural City
Hume City Council	Flora of Hume City - Field Guide
Indigo Shire Council	Native vegetation
Kingston City Council	Kingston indigenous plants list Kingston Gardens for Wildlife booklet



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Knox City Council	Knox gardens for wildlife booklet
Latrobe City Council	Threatened flora - Latrobe City Indigenous Plants of Latrobe City
Loddon Shire Council	Threatened flora - Loddon Shire
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Flora of the Macedon Ranges booklet
Manningham City Council	Native Splendour - A gardening guide to Manningham's local plants
Mansfield Shire Council	Upper Goulburn - Mansfield species list
Maribyrnong City Council	Native indigenous plant list for the Maribyrnong garden
Maroondah City Council	Maroondah's wildlife gardens booklet Maroondah's indigenous flora and fauna
Melbourne City Council	Urban nature planting guide
Melton City Council	Melton City Council - indigenous plants list
Merri-bek City Council	Gardening with indigenous plants in Merri-bek
Mildura Rural City Council	Threatened flora - Mildura Rural City
Mitchell Shire Council	Recommended flora species lists
Moira Shire Council	Landscape Plant Guide
Monash City Council	Indigenous Species in Monash
Moonee Valley City Council	Wildlife Friendly Gardening
Moorabool Shire Council	Native plant lists for towns in Moorabool Shire
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Local Native Plants Guide Plants of the Peninsula
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Wild plants of Castlemaine District
Moyne Shire Council	Indigenous Plants of Moyne Booklet
Murrindindi Shire Council	Plants in your patch
Nillumbik Shire Council	Live Local Plant Local
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Threatened flora - Northern Grampians Shire
Port Phillip City Council	Grow Wild Garden Guide Recommended Plant Species List
Pyrenees Shire Council	Threatened flora - Pyrenees Shire
Borough of Queenscliffe	Our native plants and flowers
South Gippsland Shire Council	Plant Species Guide Threatened flora - South Gippsland Shire
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Threatened flora - Southern Grampians Shire
Stonnington City Council	Sustainable Gardening in Stonnington booklet
Strathbogie Shire Council	Threatened flora - Strathbogie Shire Strathbogie Ranges - species list
Surf Coast Shire Council	Local Plants
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Threatened flora - Swan Hill Rural City

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Towong Shire Council	Threatened flora - Towong Shire
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Threatened flora - Wangaratta Rural City
Warrnambool City Council	Threatened flora - Warrnambool City
Wellington Shire Council	Threatened flora Wellington Shire
West Wimmera Shire Council	Threatened flora - West Wimmera Shire
Whitehorse City Council	Indigenous Gardening in Whitehorse booklet Indigenous plants
Whittlesea City Council	Your Indigenous Garden Guide Indigenous plants list
Wodonga City Council	Albury Wodonga Garden Guide Threatened flora - Wodonga City
Wyndham City Council	Habitat Heroes Booklet
Yarra City Council	Gardening with Native Plants in Yarra
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Local Plant Directory - All Indigenous Plants Local Plant Directory - Trees Local Plant Directory - Herbs & Groundcovers Plant Communities
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Threatened flora - Yarriambiack Shire

Indigenous plant nurseries

Most indigenous nurseries require six months' notice to enable them to propagate plants for a planting project. Please consider this when planning your planting project. Some of the links above to local governments' flora booklets/lists also include links to local indigenous plant nurseries. Contact your local Landcare or environmental volunteer group/network for details of local indigenous plant nurseries.

Junior Landcare Learning Centre

The [Junior Landcare Learning Centre](#) has lots of learning activities that may assist with the planning of your biodiversity-focused planting project.