



**Take
Another
Look...**

**Our Locals
are Beauties**

A guide to identifying native plants
and weeds of the Sunshine Coast

Fourth
COASTAL EDITION

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Plant Type



Tree palm/Treefern



Tree



Shrub



Groundcover



Grass & tussock



Vine

Environmental Benefits



Habitat for native frogs



Attracts native tree dwelling mammals



Attracts native insects



Attracts native birds



Suitable for planting near powerlines



Indigenous use plants

INTRODUCTION

Local native plants have evolved over thousands of years to thrive in our sandy, salty and windy conditions. They play a crucial role in protecting our sand dunes and coastal areas from erosion by wind and water. Wallum, the coastal heathland plants native to this area, are just as important as a tropical rainforest, and act in much the same way, protecting everything beneath an impenetrable canopy and providing food and shelter for our native birds and animals. The local aborigines and early settlers also relied on these valuable plants, which supplied them with foods, medicines, dyes and materials.

Over the last 150 years, the Sunshine Coast has lost much of its coastal vegetation leaving small isolated pockets scattered across the region. Every day more and more of our iconic coastal plants are disappearing due to increasing pressures placed upon them by our lifestyle choices. As a result the remaining isolated pockets of coastal vegetation are being overrun by introduced weeds.

We need to protect and repair the few remaining areas of local native plants, and introduce more native plants into our backyards. This brochure will help you to recognise some of the local native plants that belong here and choose the right ones to suit your garden. It also highlights some of the major weeds which are prevalent in this area. Some of them may be growing in your garden.

The problem is that they don't stay in your garden - wind, rain, birds and dumped clippings will spread them into bushland where they rapidly take over, choking out the native plants. This guide also explains some of the best ways to dispose of these exotic plants and weeds to minimise damage to our environment.



Piccabeen palm

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana

Tall palm with bright green foliage which grows to 25m. This is a self-cleaning palm that is found in wetlands and rainforests on the Sunshine Coast.



Coastal pine

Callitris columellaris

This attractive tree can grow to 20m. Naturally occurring along coastal sandy beaches and headlands, it forms an excellent wind-break or screen. This plant can be too large for small home gardens.





Horsetail she-oak

Casuarina equisetifolia

This hardy tree grows to 10m in exposed salt-laden winds, binding sandy soils. Long greyish green needle-like leaves (actually branchlets) hang down giving the tree a drooping habit. Flowers in autumn later give rise to cone-like fruit. Ideal wind-break.

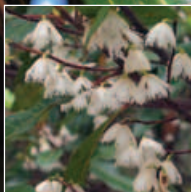


Tuckeroo

Cupaniopsis anacardioides

Tall tree found in a range of ecosystems. Often used as a street or shade tree in commercial landscapes but the root system may be too invasive for home gardens. Cream/greenish flowers appear late summer to autumn followed by dense clusters of bright orange fruit.

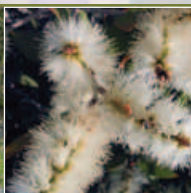




Blueberry ash

Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Usually less than 10m, this beautiful plant is found in wet and dry eucalypt forests throughout the Sunshine Coast. Masses of dainty white bell-like flowers are found in spring and early summer, followed by small bright blue fruit. Useful for protected seaside plantings.



Broad-leaved paperbark

Melaleuca quinquenervia

This paperbark thrives in damp coastal wetlands so the root system may be too invasive for home gardens. Scented cream flower brushes appear in autumn and winter providing an abundance of nectar. Useful for exposed seaside planting and water-logged situations.





Beach acronychia

Acronychia imperforata

Often found in littoral rainforest behind the foredunes, this small hardy tree (6m) tolerates full sun and some exposure to salt winds. It bears masses of cream flowers followed by yellow pea-sized berries.

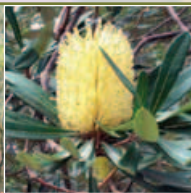


Beach bird's eye

Alectryon coriaceus

This small tree to 6m is found in coastal closed forests growing in sand. It is used extensively in coastal landscaping due to its hardiness and fast growth rate, as well as being both bird and butterfly attracting.





Coastal banksia

Banksia integrifolia subsp. integrifolia

Golden nectar-filled flowers attract a diverse range of nectar-feeding species. It is a hardy tree occurring naturally on coastal dunes and growing to 6m.

Make life easy -
co-exist with nature,
don't try
to conquer it.



Blue lilly pilly

Syzygium oleosum

An ornamental fast growing large shrub or small tree to 6m high. Glossy dark green perfumed leaves. Creamy-white flowers in summer followed by edible purplish-blue fruit which makes good jam. Good windbreak or street tree specimen which will tolerate some salt spray.





Pandanus

Pandanus tectorius

Forms part of the distinctive character of Sunshine Coast headlands and dunes. The sculptured shape of the trunk and greenish grey strap leaves of the pandanus are a dramatic statement in coastal gardens and natural foreshores. The large pineapple-like fruit are orange when ripe.

Locally this species is under threat from a North Queensland Leafhopper. The first signs a pandanus has leafhoppers are:

- leaf yellowing, dieback, shrivel or wilting in the centre and throughout the leaf head
- excess dead leaf material throughout the leaf head
- sooty mould – a black growth on the underside of the leaves and often on trunks and branches
- green leaves pull away from the head easily and there is much pungent-smelling water present

Control through the removal of affected leaves and eggs making sure to wear thick protective clothing including gloves.





Quinine berry

Petalostigma pubescens

Found in coastal open forests growing on sand, this shrub can grow to 3-4m high. This hardy plant has an attractive drooping appearance and bears masses of bright orange fruit about the size of cherries. The underside of the leaves are covered in downy hairs.



Quinine bush

Petalostigma triloculare

A spreading shrub or small tree 3 – 5m high with glossy dark green leaves. Bears highly perfumed green to cream flowers from December to May followed by orange or red fruit. Leaves are eaten by the Copper jewel butterfly larvae.





Creek Lilly pilly

Acmena smithii 'var minor'

This narrow-leaved form of ***Acmena smithii*** is usually found as a large bushy shrub to 4m. Bears masses of pink or mauve edible fruit in autumn and winter. May be pruned to form dense screen or hedge.



Carrol myrtle, grey myrtle

Backhousia myrtifolia

Naturally occurring along wet eucalypt forest and rainforest margins. This multi-trunked small dense shrub or tree can grow 4m - 6m, an effective privacy screen. It bears masses of white/cream flowers in spring to summer. Leaves are aromatic when crushed.





Golden candlesticks

Banksia spinulosa

Usually growing to 2-3m, this single or multi-stemmed shrub bears masses of golden yellow to orange flowers in early winter. Found naturally in dry eucalypt forests as an understorey species, but adapts to full sun or light shade in the garden.



Hop bush

Dodonea triquetra

Usually found growing to 3m in average soils. Eye-catching green to purple winged seed capsules cover the plant in spring. A hardy shrub that can tolerate dry conditions and light shade.





Wild may

*Leptospermum
polygalifolium*

This medium sized shrub grows to 3m and is found naturally in dry heath and wallum woodlands. In spring it is covered with masses of beautiful white flowers that make this hardy species particularly attractive for the home garden.

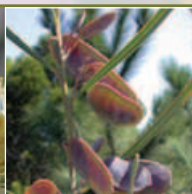


Prickly Moses

Acacia hubbardiana

Dainty, spreading shrub to 2m with tiny triangular leaves. Small ball-shaped pale yellow flowers with a faint sweet perfume in winter & spring (one of the first wallum wildflowers each year). Useful frog pond and small-bird attracting plant. Tolerates poor drainage.



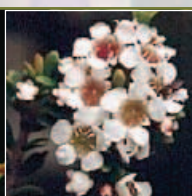


Sweet wattle

Acacia suaveolens

Small wattle to about 2.5m with creamy white flowers. The flat seedpods are an attractive greyish/purple colour when immature.

Native plants are attractive, easy to grow and waterwise. They also provide food and shelter for native wildlife.



Weeping baeckea

Baeckea frutescens

A very hardy shrub to 2.5m with weeping branches and tiny needle-like leaves which are covered in a shower of small white flowers in winter and summer. Will tolerate average to well-drained soils in full sun. Useful shrub for visual or wind break.





Wallum hakea

Hakea actites

Erect multi-branched shrub to 2.5m with 10cm long needle-like foliage and small white flowers in winter-spring. Unusual attractive woody seed pods. Very hardy plant that makes an excellent screen.



Hairy psychotria

Psychotria loniceroides

Attractive pale green-foliaged shrub to 2.5m, downy rust coloured hair on leaves. Clusters of yellowish-white flowers in February - April, creamy yellow berries in March-August. Salt tolerant, prefers a semi-shaded position. Green Catbird eats the berries.

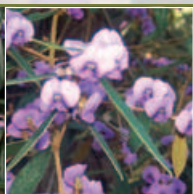




Swamp banksia

Banksia robur

Naturally occurs in wet soils and can grow to 2m. The large 20cm flowers are blue/green in the bud stage opening to golden in autumn/winter. Can grow as a single or multi-stemmed plant. Will benefit from pruning.



Purple pea bush

Hovea acutifolia

Common locally in woodland situations, this shrub will grow to 2m. Suitable for average soils in sun or part shade. Deep purple pea flowers cover this small shrub in spring. Spectacular when in flower.





Prickly-leaved paperbark

Melaleuca nodosa

Masses of creamy-yellow flowers cover this shrub in spring and summer. Leaves are narrow and finely pointed and the branches may have a weeping habit. A useful screen plant for areas exposed to salt spray or with mild frosts. An important pollen source for bees.



Woombye bush

Phebalium woombye

One of the most beautiful wallum plants, this shrub is covered with masses of white to pale pink flowers in spring. The dark green foliage has a silvery under-surface. Hardy compact shrub that grows to 2m in well-drained sunny to partly shaded position.





Dwarf banksia

Banksia oblongifolia

True to its name, the Dwarf banksia generally grows no more than 1.5m in height, although it can reach up to 3m in the wild. This is an extremely adaptable and hardy plant that thrives in tough conditions.



Wallum bottlebrush

Melaleuca pachyphylla

A common plant in wet heath ecosystems. This is a very hardy shrub for home gardens, growing to about 1.5m high in sun to part shade. Bright red or green flowers appear throughout the year.





Native lasiandra, blue tongue

Melastoma malabathricum
subsp. *malabathricum*

A bushy shrub for moist soils in full sun to part shade. Large mauve flowers from spring to autumn are followed by an edible fruit staining the tongue blue. Will benefit from pruning. Grows to 1.5m.

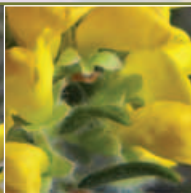


Hairy bush pea

Pultenaea villosa

Fine hairs cover the leaves and stems of this shrub which grows to 1.5m. In autumn and spring yellow and orange pea flowers transform this plant into a ball of gold. Ideally suited to a well-drained sunny position in the garden.





Woolly aotus

Aotus lanigera

As described by the common name this small shrub is covered with long, fine white hairs on the stems, leaves and seed pods. This shrub prefers well drained to moist soils. Yellow pea flowers cover the ends of the branches in late winter and spring.



Midyim berry

Austromyrtus dulcis

A small shrub or groundcover to 1m high with attractive aromatic leaves and pale pink new growth. White flowers in spring are followed by edible white & purple fruit. This hardy shrub grows in most soils in sun or shade and is suitable for semi-exposed seaside planting.





Thyme honey myrtle

Melaleuca thymifolia

An attractive small spreading shrub to 1m bearing mauve lacy flowers in spring and summer. A very adaptable plant for average soils in sun or part shade. Will benefit from pruning.



Dog rose

Banera capitata

Small shrub to 0.5m high with attractive deep mauve flowers in spring and summer. Naturally found in wallum ecosystems, it prefers moist sandy loam soils and is salt-tolerant. A delight in the garden.





Small-leaved guinea flower

Hibbertia vestita

A small delicate, prostrate shrub with fine hairs on the branchlets. Bright yellow, 5-petalled flowers form on tips of the branches from late winter to summer.

With the privilege of living so close to natural areas comes the responsibility for their protection.



Rice flower

Pimelea linifolia subsp.
linifolia

An attractive erect shrub growing to 0.5m. Clusters of white tubular flowers crowd into a head at the end of the branches in spring and summer. It grows in sandy conditions in full and part shade and is common in wallum heath.





Bungwall fern

Blechnum indicum

Attractive fern useful for shady understorey planting. Also suitable for use around garden ponds or in moist gardens. Excellent for frog habitat. Widespread in coastal swamps and paperbark forests.



Pig face

Carpobrotus glaucescens

Succulent groundcover found on coastal dunes, vital in the stabilisation of sands. It has fleshy three-sided leaves and bright pink daisy flowers from spring to autumn. Useful rockery plant.





Twining guinea flower

Hibbertia scandens

Showy bright yellow flowers cover the plant throughout the year followed by reddish/orange berries that are relished by the birds. Readily propagated from seed or cuttings and will grow in most areas. Used as a groundcover or climbing vine.



Fan flower

Scaevola calendulacea

A compact groundcover with fleshy grey-green leaves covered in a mass of fan-shaped flowers throughout the year. Occurs within coastal dunes as a sand stabiliser. Hardy and reliable ground-cover in exposed and sunny areas in well-drained soils.





Native violet

Viola banksii

Low growing spreading groundcover with attractive mauve & white flowers. Grows well in semi-shaded, moist positions.

Local plants have adapted to local conditions and are more likely to flourish in your backyard.



Swamp foxtails

Baloskion tetraphyllum

An attractive multi-stemmed plant with fine, bright green foliage. The plant prefers moist locations and is suitable for growing near water features and ponds. The rusty flower sprays can be seen amongst the foliage in summer.

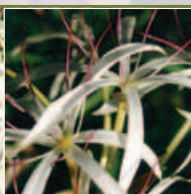




Tall sedge

Carex appressa

Sedge to .8m tall with .8m spread. Long narrow leaves, minute greenish-brown flowers on spikes, likes moisture and will tolerate roots in water, frost resistant, drought tender. Good poolside plant. Attracts butterflies. Prefers full sun.



River lily

Crinum pedunculatum

This broad-leaved tufted plant has thick fleshy strap leaves to 1m. It bears large heads of fragrant white spidery flowers from spring to autumn and tolerates most conditions.





All three Flax lily species have vibrant blue flowers and blue/purple fruit.

Common flax lily

Dianella caerulea

Common flax lily is the most widespread of the species often spreading by suckers to form tufts or mats to 1m high.

Beach flax lily

Dianella congesta

Beach flax lily is a tufting plant to 50cm high and is found on the fore-dunes so it is extremely hardy.

Pale flax lily

Dianella longifolia

Grows to around 1m high in a range of coastal environments with an erect plant form.



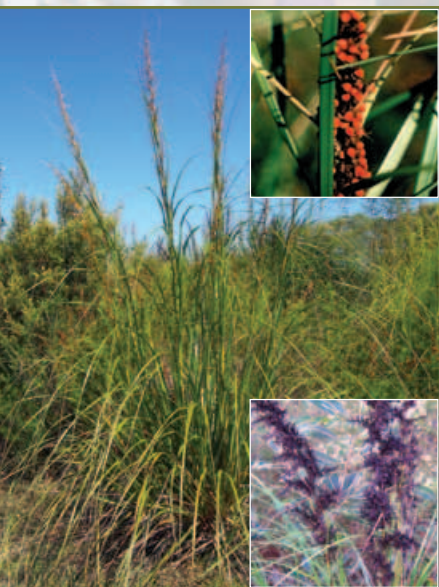


Knobby club rush

Ficinia nodosa syn.

Isolepsis nodosa

Hardy rush to 1 metre with erect rigid stems, furry brown round seed heads. Can be used near pools or for seaside plantings and for binding sandy soils. Fast growing & drought proof. Full sun/filtered sun, adaptable.



Sword grass

Gahnia sieberiana

This tufting plant grows to 1.5m high and is found in sedgelands and Melaleuca wetlands. The extremely sharp edge of the leaves gives this plant its common name.



Our bushland is our natural heritage. It is a large part of what makes the Sunshine Coast unique.





Kangaroo grass

Themeda triandra

Common tufting grass with slender flower heads occurs naturally in wallum woodlands and eucalypt forests. Grows to 1m high. Best suited to a sunny well drained position and requires minimal maintenance.



Grass tree

Xanthorrhoea fulva
Xanthorrhoea johnsonii

Grass trees will create a focal point and dramatic contrast in the home garden where an interesting structural form is required. The flower spikes of perfumed nectar-laden white flowers may rise up to 2m above the plant. Require well-drained soil in sun or part shade.





Native sarsaparilla

Hardenbergia violacea

A twining, scrambling plant that can be used as a groundcover down embankments or retaining walls. Spectacular deep purple flowers cover the plant in spring. It is both adaptable and hardy and will form a thick ground cover in a variety of situations from part-shade to full sun.



Wax flower

Hoya australis

Bunches of white or pale pink perfumed flowers adorn this climber in spring. Ideally suited to a well-drained shaded position. Suitable for trellis, pergola or pot planting. Host to the Common Crow butterfly.





Bower of beauty

Pandorea jasminoides

This popular native vine has dark green pinnate foliage and is an excellent vine to cover a trellis or pergola. The attractive tubular-shaped pink flowers cover the vine during spring and summer.



Fraser Island creeper

Tecomanthe hillii

Although listed as a rare plant, this beautiful climber is not difficult to grow in cultivation. Found in a very limited distribution in coastal rainforests, this species bears beautiful pink trumpet flowers in winter and spring. Grows and flowers best in full sun to part shade, suitable for average soils.



Richmond birdwing butterfly vine

Pararistolochia praevenosa

Vigorous rainforest vine bears unusual tubular flowers in spring followed by 4cm long, yellow, ribbed fruit in late summer. The leaves of this vine are the only lowland food source for the larvae of the rare Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. A great climber for shaded to semi-shaded positions in average soil. Keep an eye out for these beautiful large, green butterflies and report sightings to Council as part of the recovery plan for this vulnerable species.



Joining a Community Nature Conservation group is a great way to make a real difference to your local environment.

What is Community Nature Conservation?

The Community Nature Conservation program is a highly effective environmental stewardship program that actively involves and engages community volunteers in the conservation and restoration of our natural areas.

What do volunteers do?

As a volunteer, you might:

- enhance wildlife corridors
- weed a patch of bush to allow regeneration
- attend workshops and learn new skills
- photograph wildlife
- mentor your local school
- monitor and repair nestboxes

How will Council Help?

Council Officers provide a wide range of support to approved projects on council owned lands such as:

- practical and technical assistance
- support and training
- supply of equipment and materials
- recognition of efforts

How do you get involved?

There may be an existing active group near you that would welcome a new volunteer, or you may like to start your own group, if you have a patch of bush in mind that could benefit from some help.

To find out more about how to get involved, check Council's webpage www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au or speak to a Community Nature Conservation Officer on 5475 7272.

