

Local native plant list



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CITY OF
TEA TREE GULLY
Naturally Better

Local native plant list

Below are some of the native plants local to the City of Tea Tree Gully and suitable for home gardens.

Small trees

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Golden Wattle (<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>)	Small tree 3-8m tall with glossy leaves. New foliage is often bronze-coloured. Flowers golden yellow and fragrant late winter to spring. Floral emblem of Australia.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates moist well-drained soil in semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Fast-growing. Specimen tree/shrub.	Provides seeds and nectar for birds. Food for Two-spotted Line-blue butterfly and caterpillar.
Drooping Sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>)	Small drooping tree to 5m tall with dull green needle-like foliage. Male flowers resemble short orange tassels in autumn. Male and female flowers grow on different plants. Spiky oval persistent cones.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in full sun and semi-shade. Tolerates poor winter drainage. Drought-tolerant. Reasonably fast-growing. Can clog drains.	Seed sought by Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo and various parrots.
Silver Banksia (<i>Banksia marginata</i>)	Large shrub/small tree, 4-7m tall with an open, often angular form. Foliage is dark green. Leaf undersides are silver and velvety. Honey-scented silver-yellow flowers to 20cm long forming at any time of year, followed by persistent woody cones.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates moist, well-drained soil in semi-shade. Resents poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Excess phosphorus will damage or kill this plant. Resents pruning. Specimen tree.	Food for birds such as honeyeaters, wattlebirds and parrots; mammals such as bats.
Native Pine (<i>Callitris gracilis</i>)	Native conifer growing in a formal upright shape to 12m tall. Emerald-green foliage. Inconspicuous flowers followed by persistent woody cones.	Full sun to semi-shade. Long-lived and drought-tolerant. Grows reasonably fast once established. Nice in a pot as a native Christmas tree.	Woody cones provide seed for several parrot species.
Summer Red Mallee (<i>Eucalyptus socialis</i> ssp. <i>socialis</i>)	Multi-stemmed tree up to 8m tall. Bark hangs in strips. Often a colourful display of yellow flowers in spring and summer.	Full sun. Tolerates a variety of soils. Drought tolerant. Moderate to fast growth. Specimen tree.	Food for nectar eating birds, possums and insects during time of year when food short.

Large and medium shrubs

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Wreath Wattle (<i>Acacia acinacea</i>)	Medium sized shrub to 1.5m tall with arching branches and small bright green leaves. Habit can vary. Masses of bright yellow flowers along stems in spring.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in sun. Tolerant of semi shade and a wide variety of soils and conditions. Resents poor drainage. Good for screening, under trees and in large containers.	Food for insects and seed-eating birds. Nectar for Two-spotted Line-blue butterfly and caterpillar.
Kangaroo Thorn (<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>)	Bushy large shrub to 4m tall with very prickly foliage. Dull green leaves and bright yellow flowers in early spring.	Dry, well-drained soil in full or part sun. Tolerates a variety of soils. Useful as a screen and for bird habitat.	Small thorns provide excellent protection for small birds.
Myrtle Wattle (<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>)	Compact shrub to 2m tall. Leathery leaves, pale cream flowers in early spring.	Prefers well drained soils and full sun. Drought tolerant.	Good habitat for birds. Bird and insect attracting.
Slaty She-oak (<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i>)	Grey-greenish compact shrub 1-3m tall. Fine needle-like foliage with reddish tassel-like flowers followed by persistent woody cones. Male plants rust coloured when flowering.	Dry, well-drained soil in full sun and semi-shade. Drought tolerant. Reasonably fast growing. Useful as a screen.	Seed extracted from cones by larger parrots and Crimson Rosellas.
Christmas Bush (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>)	Shrub to 2m tall. Stiff, angular stems supporting dark-green, glossy leaves and thin thorns. Masses of tiny fragrant creamy flowers on ends of branches in summer.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil and full sun. Tolerates moist, well-drained soil and full shade. Resents permanently poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Good as a hedge and specimen plant. Can be lightly pruned.	Nectar for butterflies. Attracts insects and insect-eating birds.
River Bottlebrush (<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>)	Fast growing dense shrub to 3m tall. Creamy white 'bottlebrush' flowers.	Full sun to part shade. Prefers a moderately damp situation. Good for stabilizing river banks.	Nectar for insects.

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Rock Correa (<i>Correa glabra</i>)	Dense rounded shrub 1-2m tall with glossy green leaves. Vertical hanging green or red tubular flowers to 3cm. Correa reflexa is similar but grows to 1m tall and more spreading.	Variety of soils if well-drained. Full sun to part shade. Drought tolerant. Can be pruned as a low hedge.	Nectar for honey eaters in winter.
Tall Scurf-pea (<i>Cullen australasicum</i>)	Erect open branched shrub to 1.5m tall. Spikes of pinkish pea flowers in spring and autumn.	Prune to create a more dense plant and extend the life of this short lived plant. Drought tolerant. Works well in a cottage style garden.	Butterfly caterpillar food plant and nectar for butterflies and birds.
Sticky Hop-bush (<i>Dodonaea viscosa ssp. spatulata</i>)	Erect to spreading shrub 1.5 to 4m tall with glossy bright green leaves. Colourful green-to-red papery winged capsules in spring.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in sun. Tolerates semi-shade and moist well-drained soil. Resents poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Good for hedge/screening and under trees. Can be pruned to encourage new growth.	Seeds eaten by birds such as pigeons and parrots.
Hop Goodenia (<i>Goodenia ovata</i>)	Erect or prostrate shrub to 2m tall with oval, glossy, bright green leaves. Bright yellow flowers most of the year, but especially during spring and summer.	Prefers moist soil and semi-shade. Tolerates full sun to full shade, dry soil, poor drainage and some water-logging. Fast growing. Prune tips severely to promote dense growth. Suckers easily. Good for rock gardens, bog gardens and under trees.	Provides food for insect-eating birds. Nectar for butterflies.
Prickly Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>)	Fast growing large shrub to 4m tall. Often covered in white flowers in spring. Small prickly green leaves.	Full sun and part shade. Tough shrub for hedging and habitat. Useful for poorly drained sites.	Attracts nectar eating birds and butterflies. Good bird habitat.
Silky Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>)	The tea-tree that Tea Tree Gully was named after. Large shrub 2-8m tall. Arching branches, white 5 petalled flowers in spring.	Full sun. Prefers a damp situation. Good for erosion control along creeklines. Can be pruned to improve density.	Nectar for insects, birds, butterflies.

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Sticky Boobiella (<i>Myoporum viscosum</i>)	Large shrub 1.5 – 3m tall with dark green leaves and slightly sticky new growth. Lots of small white flowers in spring.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates moist, well-drained soil and semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Fast growing. Prune tips to encourage dense growth. Good as a hedge, specimen plant and under trees. Blends well with exotic species.	Fruits are eaten by birds. Nectar for butterflies.
Twiggy Daisy-bush (<i>Olearia ramulosa</i>)	Dense, rounded, silver-green aromatic shrub to 1.5m high if pruned. Small white daisy flowers cover the bush in autumn.	Prefers dry, well-drained soils in full sun to semi-shade. Tolerates heavier soils. Can create a hedge if pruned. Drought-tolerant.	Provides food for insect-eating birds. Nectar for butterflies.
Mealy Saltbush (<i>Rhagodia parabolica</i>)	Fast growing dense, grey-green spreading shrub to 2m tall. Inconspicuous flowers and fruit.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in full sun to semi-shade. Tolerates a variety of soil types. Drought tolerant. Prune to keep dense.	Saltbush Blue butterfly caterpillar food.
Desert Cassia (<i>Senna artemisioides</i>)	A large grey-green shrub to 2.5m tall. Fine foliage and abundant buttercup flowers winter-spring.	Prefers full sun to light shade. Drought tolerant. Tolerates most soils. Fine foliage creates foliage contrast in garden setting.	Ants eat arils and disperse seed. Food for Icilius Blue and Small Grass Yellow butterflies and caterpillars.

Small shrubs

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Mallee Pea (<i>Eutaxia microphylla</i> var. <i>microphylla</i> and <i>Eutaxia diffusa</i>)	Small shrubs to less than 1m tall with grey-green leaves on rigid stems. Lots of attractive orange-yellow “egg and bacon” pea flowers in winter to spring.	Dry, well-drained soil. Tolerates up to full shade. Resents permanently poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Can be pruned severely. Good in rock gardens, containers and under trees.	Plants eaten by butterfly caterpillars. Seeds dispersed by ants attracted by the nutritious aril on the seeds.

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
White Goodenia (<i>Goodenia albiflora</i>)	Low shrub to less than 1m tall spreading up to 1m. Contrasting grey foliage with white flowers in spring and summer.	Dry, well-drained soil. Prefers full sun. Effective en-mass and in rockeries	Attracts native butterflies and insects, caterpillar food plant.
Clasping Goodenia (<i>Goodenia amplexans</i>)	Rounded shrub to 1m. Bright lime-green leaves clasping the entire stem. Small yellow flowers spring to summer but often all year.	Dry well-drained to boggy soil. Does best with some summer water. Sun to semi shade. Responds well to pruning. Can be pruned for new growth.	Attracts native bees and insects. Meadow Argus butterfly caterpillar food.
Dwarf Hakea (<i>Hakea rugosa</i>)	Open, twiggy prickly shrub to 1m tall. Linear leaves which are round in cross-section with sharply pointed tips. White-to-cream grevillea-like flowers in winter and spring, followed by woody, beaked pods.	Tolerates a variety of dry, well drained soils inf full sun or semi-shade. Drought tolerant. Provides colour and a source of nectar for wildlife in winter.	Nectar and pollen for honeyeaters and insects. Nesting for wrens. Bird and lizard refuge. Seed for parrots and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.
Button Everlasting (<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>)	Hardy perennial to 0.5m tall. Yellow papery flowers winter to spring.	Full sun, suitable for small gardens. Good filler or edging plant. Prune in winter. Prefers some additional water in summer.	Butterfly caterpillar food plant.
Native Flax (<i>Linum marginale</i>)	Delicate perennial plant with erect, sometimes branched stems to 50cm tall. Long stems carrying pale-blue flowers in spring. Dies back to the rootstock after flowering.	Well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates wet winter, dry summer, poor drainage and semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Most effective when planted in groups.	Attracts insects when in flower.
Austral Trefoil (<i>Lotus australis</i>)	Small open shrub to 50cm tall. Soft light-green leaves with three lobes. Pale pink or white pea-like flowers in groups in late spring to summer.	Moist well-drained soils. Tolerates dry periods once established. Attractive rockery plant.	Butterfly nectar and caterpillar food.
Australian Pelargonium (<i>Pelargonium australe</i>)	Rounded plant with oval, softly hairy, aromatic leaves to 50 x 50cm. White flowers with purple veins in clusters above foliage in spring to summer. May die back in dry weather but will re-shoot with rain.	Dry, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates moist, well-drained soil and semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Prune severely to rejuvenate old plants.	Attracts insects when in flower.

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Drumsticks (<i>Pycnosorus globosus</i>)	Very ornamental small plant with brilliant yellow globular flowers. 0.2-1m tall.	Full sun, tolerates dryness but does best with a little water. Tolerates a wide variety of soils. Makes excellent dried or cut flowers.	Attracts bees, butterflies and other insects.
Narrow-leaf New Holland Daisy (<i>Vittadinia blackii</i>)	Small short-lived perennial or annual daisy less than knee-high. Small green leaves. Small pretty pale purple to violet flowers mainly in spring, followed by fluffy seed heads that can cover the plant.	Dry well-drained soils in full sun. Best planted in groups. Good in a cottage-style garden.	Nectar for butterflies.
Tall Bluebell (<i>Wahlenbergia stricta ssp. stricta</i>)	Delicate plant, leaves are grey-green and narrow. Numerous bright blue bell-shaped flowers in spring to early summer. Flower-heads up to 90cm tall.	Well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates semi-shade. Resents poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Very effective when planted in groups. Suitable for containers, under trees and as a ground cover. Flowers are edible and can be eaten fresh.	Attracts bees, butterflies and other insects.

Grasses and sedges

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Elegant Spear Grass (<i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i>)	Tufting perennial with wiry stems. Elegant feathery white seedheads in summer.	Dry, well-drained soil in full sun to semi-shade. Drought tolerant. Can grow under trees and plant in groups for best effect.	Habitat for small lizards. Butterfly caterpillar food. Food for small birds.
Stiff Flat-sedge (<i>Cyperus vaginatus</i>)	Architectural clumping plant to 1.5m tall. Whorl of leaflets at the top of each stem.	Tolerates a variety of soils in sun or semi-shade. Good for areas that are periodically damp and then dry out. Use at edge of pond or in well-watered pot. Fast growing and spreading.	Shade and shelter for wildlife. Caterpillar food plant for Southern Grass Dart.

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Lemon Scented Grass (<i>Cymbopogon ambiguus</i>)	Blue-green clumping grass. Arching leaves to 50cm tall with flowering spikes to 1.5m in spring and summer. Leaves have a strong lemon scent when crushed.	Full sun to part-shade. Very drought-tolerant. Most effective when planted in groups.	Home for a small spider that looks and moves like a ripe seed.
Black-anther Flax-lily (<i>Dianella revoluta</i> var. <i>revoluta</i>)	Stiff plant up to 1m high with blue-grey strap-like leaves. Deep blue flowers carried above the leaves followed by blue berries, spring to summer.	Well-drained soil in full sun to full shade. Tolerates wet winter and dry summer soil. Drought-tolerant. Good as ground cover and under trees.	Food for seed-eating birds. Visited by Blue-banded Bees.
Knobby Club-rush (<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>)	Tussock-forming rush with rigid leafless stems to 1m tall. Semi-globular clusters of small red-brown spikes near the end of stems throughout the year.	Wet poorly-drained soil in full sun but will tolerate drying out for periods of time and semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Reliable plant with distinctive architectural form.	Habitat for water birds.
Soft-tussock Mat-rush (<i>Lomandra densiflora</i>)	Tussock strappy leaved plant to 50cm tall. Long stiff grey-green leaves.	Prefers full sun and free draining soils. Benefits from some additional water in summer. Plant in groups.	Habitat refuge for small mammals and reptiles. Butterfly caterpillar food plant.
Common Tussock Grass (<i>Poa labillardieri</i>)	Large tussock-forming grass up to 1m x 1m. Long green leaves drying to silvery grey. Plume-like flower head spring to summer.	Moist, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates wet winter and dry summer soil, poor drainage, seasonal water-logging and semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Fast growing. Cut back severely in autumn to rejuvenate tussocks. Good in rock gardens, as groundcover and as an informal edging plant.	Provides seed for small birds and food for butterfly caterpillars.

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Common Wallaby-grass (<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>)	A robust tussock grass with slender stems to 0.7m tall. Fluffy white compact seedheads when ripe, late spring to summer.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in full sun. Resents permanently poor drainage. Tolerates a variety of soil types including poor soils. Drought tolerant. Plant for best effect in drifts.	Butterfly caterpillar food. Food for seed eating birds.
Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>)	Dense tussock forming perennial grass to 1m tall when flowering. Purple green new growth in spring, turning a rusty colour in summer. Large, nodding, spiky flowerheads spring to summer.	Well drained soil in full sun to semi-shade. Drought tolerant. Plant in groups for best effect.	Butterfly caterpillar food source. Food for small birds.

Ground covers and climbers

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Berry Saltbush (<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>)	Low, mat forming grey green groundcover to 1.5m across. Inconspicuous flowers with small red berry fruit.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in full sun to semi-shade. Tolerates a variety of soil types. Drought tolerant.	Saltbush Blue butterfly caterpillar food.
Sweet Apple-berry (<i>Billardiera cymosa</i>)	Climber, or shrub to knee high in open situations. Dark green leaves, striking purple to blue tubular flowers in spring. Red/purple edible berries in summer.	Full sun or part shade, tolerates a variety of soils. Prune to encourage density. Minimal supplementary water required.	Attracts seed eating birds and lizards.
Common Everlasting (<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>)	Ground cover to 60cm wide. Grey to silver foliage and long lasting golden yellow flowers from spring to autumn.	Full sun and well-drained soils. Suitable for small gardens and rockeries. Effective planted in groups. Can be pruned to encourage new growth and further flowering.	Attracts insects and native bees. Australian Painted Lady butterfly and caterpillar food.

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Old Man's Beard (<i>Clematis microphylla</i>)	Slender-stemmed climber to 5m high when supported. Small, densely-massed, light-green lobed leaves. Masses of greenish-cream flowers up to 3cm wide late winter to spring followed by attractive balls of feathery plumed seeds. Male and female flowers grow on separate plants.	Dry well-drained soil in semi-shade. Tolerates wet winter and dry summer soils and full sun to full shade. Drought-tolerant. Good as a screen, along fences, and cascading over walls and pots. Will grow up trees without damaging them.	Fluffy seed heads used to line bird's nests.
Native Bindweed (<i>Convolvulus remotus</i> and <i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>)	Will twine vigorously up low trellises. Pink flowers in spring and throughout the year. Readily self-seed.	Prefers well drained soil and full sun.	Nectar source for butterflies and insects.
Ruby Saltbush (<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>)	Small shrub or ground cover with dense, succulent grey foliage to 1m wide. Inconspicuous flowers followed by red or yellow edible berries most of the year.	Dry, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates semi-shade. Drought-tolerant. Can be pruned to shape and encourage new growth.	Berries provide food for birds. Butterfly caterpillar food.
Native Lilac (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>)	Ground covering or twining sub shrub to 2m tall. Large, lance shaped leathery leaves with a pale underside. Numerous sprays of lilac flowers in late winter.	Prefers dry, well-drained, heavy soil in full sun. Tolerates wet winter and dry summer soils and up to full shade. Fast growing. Resents poor drainage. Drought-tolerant. Prune heavily to rejuvenate growth. Good as groundcover, cascading over fences and walls, under trees and in containers.	Seeds dispersed by ants attracted by the nutritious aril on the seeds. Nectar for butterflies.

Species	Description	Situation and care	Wildlife and ecology
Running Postman (<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>)	Fast-growing spreading ground cover to 2m across with soft, round leaves in a clover-leaf arrangement on slender stems radiating out from the root system. Large, showy, scarlet pea flowers with yellow centres form along stems in spring.	Prefers dry, well-drained soil in semi-shade. Tolerates moist well-drained soil and full sun. Moderately drought-tolerant. Good ground cover, under trees, in pots, hanging baskets and cascading over rocks and walls.	Long-tailed Pea Blue butterfly and caterpillar food.
Pale Fan-flower (<i>Scaevola albida</i> var. <i>albida</i>)	Low shrub/groundcover to 50cm tall. Pale blue to white fan-shaped flowers, spring to summer.	Prefers well drained soils and semi-shade. Tolerates most soil types. Responds well to pruning. Good rockery or cottage garden plant.	Caterpillar and butterfly food plant.