



Growing Native Plants

Australian Plants Society (SGAP) - Warrnambool and District Inc.

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to Maroondah City Council and CRISP Nursery for the use of information contained in the 'Indigenous Gardens - Creating habitat for people and wildlife in Maroondah' booklet.

Thank you to City of Greater Bendigo and the Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc. for the use of information contained in the "Indigenous Plants of Bendigo" booklet.

Copyright 2014:

The information in this booklet may be reproduced with acknowledgement to Maroondah Council, CRISP Nursery and Australian Plants Society (SGAP) Warrnambool and District.

Reproduction of any photos will require permission in writing.

Growing Native Plants

Why Plant Native?

Indigenous plants are plants that are local to a region and adapted to local climate and soil conditions and would have grown naturally there before European arrival. This makes them a logical choice for low-maintenance, sustainable gardens. They also make the ideal habitat for local wildlife. Native plants from other parts of Australia can also be very suited to Warrnambool's climate.

An indigenous or native garden, once established

- will require minimal maintenance, watering and fertiliser use.
- can be designed to take on a variety of styles, such as bush garden, rain garden, cottage garden, or even formal garden while still being low maintenance,
- can complement existing ornamental gardens and thus reduce its overall maintenance and watering requirements,
- can create micro-climate zones in the garden.



Indigenous and native gardens can:

- strengthen existing corridors and increase the number of habitat pockets within Warrnambool,
- help create new corridors that link to remnant flora and fauna ecosystems in Warrnambool's Coastal Reserve,
- protect fragile local natural areas by reducing potential weed infestations caused by weedy plants escaping from gardens,
- create inviting outdoor living areas,
- raise awareness and appreciation of local indigenous vegetation and wildlife.

Gardens are not just for people

One of the delights of a native garden is that it can be home to many kinds of native wildlife, including birds, bats, lizards, frogs, butterflies and other insects. The main requirements for any kind of animal are food, shelter, and protection from predators. A native garden that imitates the natural bushland attracts wildlife. To create a more natural garden use a variety of indigenous plants, including trees, bushy shrubs, small ground-hugging plants and grass tussocks. Also using fallen logs, branches, leaf litter and rocks provides habitat for insects, frogs and lizards etc.



Banksia marginata - Silver Banksia