



Designing with Native Plants Fact Sheet

GARDENING WITH AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS

Preferred plant species

Council provides a list of preferred native plant species within the current planning scheme that forms a useful guide when undertaking landscaping as part of a development application or when considering a home garden project.

Species include various types of Acacia, Brachychiton, Callistemons, Cassia brewsteri and Eucalyptus. Each variety grows under different conditions and to varying sizes and shapes. You can refer to the [Banana Shire Council Planning Scheme 2021](#) on the Council's website for the full list of species, including description and photo.

Taking the time to ensure you plant in the location that allows your native to thrive will ensure you can enjoy your plant for many years to come. Creating a simple plan by researching what is best suited to your garden is a good place to start.

Why plant natives in your garden?

Apart from their obvious beauty, planting natives in your garden can bring many other benefits to both you and the environment including:

- Most natives adapt well to their environment and can survive under our local conditions and climate, including periods of limited rainfall and hot temperatures. So you don't need to be a green finger to grow natives.

- A variety of wildlife use native plants for their habitat, shelter and food. Once established, you could expect to see a variety of birds, insects, bats, small mammals and reptiles in your garden. Creating a sanctuary for wildlife helps protect our important pollinators, the native bees.
- There is little requirement for the use of chemical pesticides so this helps to support a healthy environment. Fertilisers and pesticides can be transferred into waterways from water runoff causing environmental harm affecting water quality and ecosystems.
- Establishing a native garden can help preserve and promote biodiversity. Biodiversity creates a healthy ecosystem that produces many environmental benefits including purifying the air we breathe and maintaining healthier soil. Removing native vegetation and replacing with exotic species greatly reduces species diversity.
- Being low maintenance, you can save time and money by planting natives but still enjoy a beautiful green space.

Seek advice from experts

Regardless of whether you are an enthusiastic gardener or just a beginner, you may wish to obtain advice from gardening experts at local nurseries or plant outlets that sell native plants before getting started.

How can you contact us?

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