

## Establishing and maintaining your native garden.

Consider your site constraints and the conditions the plants will encounter. Select species that suit your conditions and requirements. What is the soil fertility, structure and drainage? Is the area exposed to sun, shade, wind, salt spray or is water limited? Group plants with similar requirements.

Decide the types of plants you require – ground covers, tufties, shrubs, trees or vines. Make sure that the mature heights and the root systems of your selections are suitable for where they are to be planted. Vigorous roots or plants that become too large for their location can damage buildings, plumbing and sewerage pipes and can be very costly to remove.



brushtail possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*

squirrel glider *Petaurus norfolcensis*

## Hollows are important.

Hundreds of native wildlife species rely on hollows for nesting and shelter. These range from mammals (gliders, possums, bats), birds (cockatoos, kingfishers, owls), reptiles (pythons, tree snakes, monitors) and frogs (green tree frog) to many insects. Keep trees with hollows.

Artificial nest boxes can act as a substitute. Contact QPWS for nest box designs.

## Good or bad?

Queensland has more than 40 native species of mistletoe. Severe infestations can kill the entire tree, but most of the time it only kills the branch it covers. Mistletoe provides a rich food source for many animals, in particular the spectacular mistletoe bird, honeyeaters and many butterflies.

Butterflies are attracted to flowers producing nectar. A garden full of colourful butterflies is very appealing. However, butterfly larvae eat plant parts. If this is not desired, don't encourage the larvae by planting species preferred by the larvae. If you do choose to plant them, accept the damage and enjoy the butterflies. A healthy plant will recover.

## Are you considering feeding wildlife?

Establishing a native flora garden will provide natural food sources for native animals. Sugar and honey supplements are poor substitutes leading to dietary deficiencies and poor health. QPWS does not encourage artificial feeding of native fauna as native gardens are a healthy alternative.

## Useful references:

Bowden, J.1999. Living with the environment in the Pine Rivers Shire. Pine Rivers Shire Council.

DPI Resource Management. 1995. Trees and Shrubs 1995 Helping you to plant the right tree, in the right place, for the right reason. DPI.

Pollock, A. 2001. Some butterflies of the Slade Point natural resources reserve, Mackay central coast, QLD. The Queensland Naturalist Vol 39 pp 90-93.

Society for Growing Australian Plants, Mackay Branch. 1991. Butterflies and food plants - a guide to the common butterflies found in the Mackay district and their food plants.

Society for Growing Australian Plants QLD. 2003. Region Bulletin Sept 03 Plants to attract fauna to the garden by Keith Townsend. pp 44-45.

## Further information

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Cnr Wood and River Streets  
PO Box 623 Mackay QLD 4740  
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*Hibiscus tiliaceus*  
red flower

## Photo's:

Tina Ball  
(Queensland Parks  
and Wildlife Service)



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# Growing plants to attract wildlife to your garden

**Whatever the size of your urban or farm garden,  
it can be wildlife-friendly.**

**This guide will help you encourage native wildlife  
into your garden by selecting and planting  
local species.**



rainbow lorriekete *Trichoglossus haematodus*

This guide is designed for the Sarina-Proserpine Lowlands (see map). All species listed occur naturally in the area and are generally available through local nurseries, specialist native plant growers, or through organisations such as the Society for Growing Australian Plants. An additional list for high altitude areas such as Eungella is available from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Mackay.

Some difficult-to-obtain plant groups such as mistletoes, aquatic/bog plants (sedges, rushes, lillies etc), grasses (kangaroo, black spear, blady grass) and vines that are butterfly food plants (*Parsonsia* species, *Capparis* species and native grapes) have not been included.



**Queensland Government**  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

## Plants included in this guide.

- grow naturally in Central Queensland Coast bioregion from Proserpine to Carmilla (see map)
- are available commercially or through propagation groups
- attract wildlife
- grow in lowland garden communities (excludes high altitudes).

This is only a guide to plant selection. For basic gardening information, consult garden books and garden clubs.



## Why grow local native plants?

By selecting a range of plants that provide flowers or fruit throughout the year, native animals will continuously visit your garden.

Plants local to an area (local provenance) are adapted to the local conditions (soil, rainfall, temperature) and if planted in the correct environment will generally require less attention and perform better. However, to keep them looking their best, they require tender love and care, as do non-natives.

## Native plants provide resources for native wildlife.

- Fruit and nuts – possums, bats and birds (pigeons, figbirds, parrots),
- Nectar – bees, butterflies, birds (sunbird, honeyeaters),
- Seeds – finches
- Foliage – possums and insects (which in turn are an important food source for other native species, especially birds).



umbrella tree flower *Schefflera actinophylla*



blue tiger butterfly *Danaus hamatus*

## Attracting native wildlife offers many benefits.

- Wildlife is aesthetically pleasing, providing colour, movement and companionship.
- Native species pollinate plants, including crops used in agriculture.
- Native species control garden and agricultural pests.
- Native species maintain soil condition and fertility.
- The sound and sight of wildlife reduces stress, improving our health.
- Most of Australian native wildlife are nocturnal, (possums, gliders, owls, bats, moths, frogs), especially mammals. Your native garden may attract animals which come out to feed and forage at night, therefore your native garden can be enjoyed by day and night.
- Many people seek native plants and animals within the landscape. You can create your own natural haven to enjoy.

## Where to from here?

Establishing layers of vegetation in your garden will not only look great, but each layer will provide habitat for different animals. A ground layer of leaf litter, logs, grasses and herbs, an understorey of shrubs and small trees, and taller trees preferably with hollows in the canopy layer, are ideal for wildlife.

We have a tendency to tidy our garden, sometimes removing micro-habitat for many little creatures. Leaf litter and mulch are habitat for lizards, frogs, insects, small mammals and ground birds and help retain moisture in the soil.



female koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*  
Photo: Derek Ball



dragon *Diporiphora australis*



*Acacia flavescens*  
flower



roths tree frog *Litoria rothii*



dragonfly



*Hibiscus tiliaceus* yellow flower



wattle *Acacia simsii*

## Plant species native to the coastal fringe areas between Proserpine and Carmilla known to attract native animals

Scientific name	Common name	Plant form	Animals the plant attracts
<i>Acacia aulacocarpa</i>	golden wattle		
<i>Acacia decora</i>	pretty wattle		
<i>Acacia flavescens</i>	wattle		
<i>Acacia holosericea</i>	wattle		
<i>Acmena hemilampra</i>	broad-leaved lillypilly		
<i>Acronychia acronychioides</i>	white aspen		
<i>Acronychia laevis</i>	yellow wood		
<i>Alectryon tomentosus</i>	hairy birds eye		
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	black she-oak		
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	soap tree		
<i>Alphitonia petriei</i>	pink ash		
<i>Alpinia caerulea</i>	native ginger		
<i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>	axe handle wood		
<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	Alexandra palm		
<i>Aristolochia acuminata</i> + spp	native Dutchman's pipe vine		
<i>Arytera divaricata</i>	rose tamarind		
<i>Atractocarpus fitzalanii</i>	native gardenia		
<i>Austromyrtus bidwillii</i>	python tree		
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	coastal banksia		
<i>Beilschmiedia obtusifolia</i>	blush walnut		
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	flame tree		
<i>Brachychiton australis</i>	broad-leaved bottle tree		
<i>Brachychiton discolor</i>	lace bark		
<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	native coffee bush		
<i>Bursaria tenuifolia</i>	northern black thorn		
<i>Callistemon pearsonii</i>	Pearson's bottlebrush		
<i>Callistemon polandii</i>	na		
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	weeping bottlebrush		
<i>Canthium odoratum</i>	shiny-leaved canthium		
<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	freshwater mangrove		
<i>Carissa ovata</i>	current bush		
<i>Cassia brewsteri</i> var. <i>brewsteri</i>	Leichhardt bean		
<i>Cassia brewsteri</i> var. <i>tomentella</i>	velvet bean		
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	river she-oak		
<i>Celtis paniculata</i>	investigator tree		
<i>Chionanthus ramiflora</i>	northern native olive		
<i>Cinnamomum oliveri</i>	Oliver's sassafras		
<i>Cissus antarctica</i>	kangaroo vine		
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>	lolly bush		
<i>Clerodendrum inerme</i>	scrambling clerodendrum		
<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>	glue berry		
<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	lemon-scented gum		
<i>Corymbia intermedia</i>	pink bloodwood		
<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i>	Morton Bay ash		
<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	purple laurel		
<i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i> + spp	three-veined laurel		
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	tuckeroo		
<i>Cycas media</i>	cycads		
<i>Dianella</i> spp	flax lily		
<i>Diospyros geminata</i> and spp	scaly ebony		
<i>Drypetes deplanchei</i>	yellow tulipwood		
<i>Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum</i>	ivory mahogany		
<i>Endiandra</i> spp	na		
<i>Erythrina vespertilio</i>	bats-wing coral		
<i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i>	Queensland grey ironbark		
<i>Eucalyptus exserta</i>	Queensland peppermint		
<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>	silver leaved ironbark		
<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i>	poplar gum		
<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	wombat berry		
<i>Ficus congesta</i>	red-leaved fig		
<i>Ficus coronata</i>	creek sandpaper fig		
<i>Ficus fraseri</i>	white sandpaper fig		
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	small fruited fig		
<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	cluster fig		
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	rusty fig		
<i>Ficus superba</i> var. <i>henneana</i>	deciduous fig		

Scientific name	Common name	Attracts	Plant form
<i>Ficus virens</i>	white fig		
<i>Flindersia schottiana</i>	bumpy ash		
<i>Flindersia australis</i>	crows ash		
<i>Gahnia aspera</i>	saw sedge		
<i>Ganophyllum falcatum</i>	scaly ash		
<i>Geitonoplesium cymosum</i>	scrambling lily		
<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	cheese tree		
<i>Glochidion sumatranum</i>	umbrella cheese tree		
<i>Graptophyllum ilicifolium</i>	Mt Blackwood holy/holy fuchsia		
<i>Grevillea hilliana</i>	hills silkyoak		
<i>Harpullia hillii</i>	blunt leaved tulip		
<i>Harpullia pendula</i>	tulipwood		
<i>Homalanthus nutans</i>	Queensland bleeding heart		
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>	cow tucker		
<i>Hoya australis</i>	hoya		
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	native frangipani		
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	native indigo		
<i>Leea indica</i>	bandicoot berry		
<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	wild may		
<i>Litsea lefeana</i>	brown bollywood		
<i>Livistona decipiens</i>	weeping cabbage tree palm		
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	na		
<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	na		
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	matt rush		
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	brush box		
<i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i>	swamp mahogany		
<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	macaranga		
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	weeping paperbark		
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	snow in summer		
<i>Melaleuca nervosa</i>	na		
<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i>	broad-leaved paperbark		
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	white cedar		
<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	corkwood/eurodia		
<i>Micromelum minutum</i>	lime berry		
<i>Miliusa brahei</i>	raspberry jelly tree		
<i>Milletia pinnata</i>	pongamia		
<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	red coodoo		
<i>Morinda jasminoides</i>	sweet morinda		
<i>Myoporum acuminatum</i>	mangrove boobialla		
<i>Myristica globosa</i> subsp. <i>muelleri</i>	native nutmeg		
<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	white bolly gum		
<i>Neolitsea australiensis</i>	grey bollywood		
<i>Olea paniculata</i>	native olive		
<i>Pandorea jasminoides</i>	bower of beauty		
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	wonga vine		
<i>Pararistolochia praevенosa</i>	birdwing vine		
<i>Pararchidendron pruinosum</i>	snow wood		
<i>Paraserianthes toona</i>	Mackay cedar		
<i>Pavetta australiensis</i>	pavetta		
<i>Phyllanthus novae-hollandiae</i>	na		
<i>Pipturus argenteus</i>	native mulberry		
<i>Pittosporum ferrugineum</i>	rusty pittosporum		
<i>Pittosporum revolutum</i>	rough fruited pittosporum		
<i>Pittosporum venulosum</i>	veiny pittosporum		
<i>Planchonia careya</i>	cocky apple		
<i>Polyscias elegans</i>	celery wood		
<i>Pouteria myrsinodendron</i>	yellow teak		
<i>Pouteria pohlmaniana</i>	yellow box wood		
<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>	umbrella tree		
<i>Scolopia braunii</i>	brown birch		
<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	wheel of fire		
<i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>	peanut tree		
<i>Syzygium</i> spp	lillypilly		
<i>Terminalia</i> spp	na		
<i>Xanthorrhoea johnsonii</i>	grass tree		

### Key:



**Note:** The flora species in this table have been selected by botanist, Irene Champion and flora/fauna associations have been sourced from published documents listed in the further reading section. For a more extensive list or a list for high altitude areas (such as Eungella), please contact Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Mackay on 4944 7800. Corner River and Wood Streets Mackay.