



Coastal Gardens

A planting guide for the
Northern and Yorke
Coastal Region



local

style

water-wise

habitat



Government
of South Australia

Northern and Yorke
Natural Resources
Management Board



Healthy and attractive coastal landscapes

This guide provides simple yet inspiring garden advice for coastal residents in the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board's region. Water-wise local native plants are suggested as attractive replacements for introduced plants that are harmful to our local coastal landscapes.

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Using this planting guide

Getting started

Our gardens are challenged with long-hot-dry summers, drought, water restrictions, and a changing climate. As a coastal resident you may also have to tackle salt spray, sand blasting, sandy or saline soils, and alkalinity.

However, there is good news! You can have a garden that copes with our tough climate without compromising on style, by using resilient, local native coastal plants.

This guide shows you how to utilise the fantastic variety of native plants available to make a stunning garden. Taking you through step by step, you will learn what plant works best for a given area or need, how to incorporate them in different landscaping styles, how to maintain them, and where to buy.

You will learn about plants to avoid which are known for becoming serious weeds in natural coastal environments. When buying plants, you will be prepared to consider natives for the benefits they provide. You may also identify invasive plants growing in your garden and decide to replace them with recommended alternatives.

Using local native plants in your coastal garden benefits your wallet. It's an easy, rewarding way to look after our environment. We hope you enjoy discovering local coastal plants. Happy gardening!



Discovering local plants

What is a local plant?

Local plants are species that would naturally occur in your area so they have evolved to suit local conditions. They are also called 'indigenous plants'.

Why use local plants?

Local plants have a huge range of benefits

- Low maintenance
- Drought tolerant
- Require minimal watering = conserves our water supplies
- Don't need fertilisers or pesticides
- Provide habitat, food and shelter for local fauna such as birds, butterflies and small lizards
- Save you money and time
- Adaptable for various landscaping styles, producing striking results
- Native plants flower at different times of the year so you can have a flowering garden all year round

Local plants are a great option for residents of coastal areas. They have adapted to survive the harsh conditions of sand and salt blasting, prolonged sun exposure, nutrient-deprived soils, and limited water availability. They are the best plants for your local area and the environment.

How to use local plants

Local plants can be incorporated into your garden the same way as exotic plants. They are suited to all landscaping styles, from formal to Japanese, contemporary to natural cottage, to courtyards and pots.

Local plants featured in this guide are attractive, suit home and holiday house gardens, are easy to grow and maintain, and are commercially available.

As you will discover throughout this guide, there is a local coastal plant for most garden situations. Plants featured include striking ground-covers, low shrubs, structured sedges and grasses, flowering creepers and trailers, bird-attracting shrubs and screening trees. Plant species that can tolerate direct coastal exposure (e.g. esplanade locations) are featured, as well as those plants that thrive with some protection from coastal elements (e.g. in your back yard, behind a fence or inland from the foreshore).

This guide also shows you which local species to use for particular effects, and makes friendlier recommendations for replacing plants known to become invasive coastal weeds.

Information on caring for local plants is provided on pages 26–27.



Garden escapes

Are you harbouring known villains?



Weeds are plants growing where they aren't wanted, and they aren't just sour sobs and thistles! Some plants escape from gardens and become serious environmental weeds which pose a major threat to the health and value of our natural environments.

Environmental weeds are trouble!

- They threaten our local native plants and environment
- Can reduce habitat, shelter and food for native fauna
- Can alter soil conditions
- Clog up waterways and effect water quality entering the gulfs
- Harbour pest animals such as foxes, feral cats and rats which prey on native wildlife
- Can alter coastal dune shape
- Garden escapes are very costly to control and take resources away from other important issues

Plants that cause problems often originate from regions with similar climates, such as the Mediterranean and South Africa. Thriving in similar conditions, they out-compete local natives as they don't have the pests and diseases that controlled them in their original environment.

How do garden plants become coastal invaders?

You might not realise you're harbouring garden escapes, or might not know they 'jump the fence' to become problems. Garden plants can escape into natural environments naturally, accidentally and deliberately:

- Seeds can be spread by birds and other animals, wind, water (including stormwater) or humans (on clothing, shoes etc).
- Dumped garden waste containing seeds or plant cuttings can grow even several months later
- Sometimes people deliberately plant garden plants in our natural coastal environments.
- Garden plants can grow through fences directly on the coast

You can help!

Have a good look through this guide to check which common garden plants are nasties in the coastal environment. You might like to remove any you have and replace them with the indigenous plants suggested. Take this guide with you when you are making new plant purchases and don't buy plants which are known to be a problem.

Here are some other easy things you can do:

- Use local native species in your garden
- Dispose of your garden waste responsibly
- Check with your local council before you plant into natural coastal environments
- Join a local Coastcare group to learn more about our coast and lend a hand! Call the NRM Board on (08) 8636 2361 or go to www.nynrm.sa.gov.au for information on how to get involved



Trees and tall shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!

GROW ME instead



Western Coastal Wattle *Acacia cyclops*
(Far west coast of SA)
Flowers: early spring to late autumn
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: birds, ants



Century Plant *Agave americana*
(The Americas)
Flowers: summer
Reproduces: seed, vegetative production
Dispersal: humans (garden waste)



Drooping Sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata*
Tree growing between 5–8 m. Long weeping branchlets, grey-green. Interesting cone-like fruit. Use as feature tree or for screening. Birds such as parrots and cockatoos are attracted to fruit. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Coast Tea-tree *Leptospermum laevigatum*
(East coast Australia and Tasmania)
Flowers: August to November
Reproduces: seed (woody capsule)
Dispersal: wind, water, humans (soil movement, garden waste, vehicles)



Common Boobialla *Myoporum insulare*
Large shrub to small tree, grows 2–5m. Thick light green fleshy leaves, white flowers winter to spring, purple berry fruit. Good screening qualities. Attracts birds and butterflies. Full-sun. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Mirror-bush *Coprosma repens*
(New Zealand)
Flowers: summer
Reproduces: orange-red berries containing seed, autumn to winter
Dispersal: birds, animals and humans (garden waste)



Mallee Eucalypts *Eucalyptus gracilis, E. phenax, E. oleosa, E. socialis, E. incrassata*
Mallee to 8m, usually multi-stemmed, various flower colours. Great plant for wildlife, provides food, shelter and nesting sites. Minimum 3.5m set-back from property and sewage pipes. Do not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



White Weeping Broom *Retama raetam*
(Mediterranean)
Flowers: winter/late spring
Reproduces: pods shed seed late spring to early summer
Dispersal: water, humans (soil movement, deliberate plantings, garden waste), rabbits, possibly ants



Sticky Hop-bush *Dodonaea viscosa ssp. spatulata*
Erect shrub to 3m, bright green sticky leaves. Green flowers in winter turn to striking red seed pods in spring. Great for hedging or screening. Responds to pruning. Attracts butterflies in summer. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Blowfly Bush *Rhamnus alaternus*
(Mediterranean)
Flowers: winter to early spring
Reproduces: fleshy black fruits containing seeds, will reshoot from base if cut or damaged
Dispersal: birds, foxes



Scrubby Cypress-pine *Callitris canescens*
Cylindrical-shaped tree to 4m. Green foliage. Fruit is a dark brown cone. Great for formal gardens. Attractive foliage. Use as a replacement plant for conifers, as singular feature plant, line driveway or for screening. Responds well to pruning. Attracts birds. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Olive *Olea europaea*
(Mediterranean)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: dark purple fruit containing large single seed in autumn-winter
Dispersal: birds, foxes, humans (cultivation and landscaping)



Emu Bush *Eremophila glabra*
Attractive shrub to over head high, suited to arid lands. Stiff grey-green leaves, long red or yellow tubular flowers occur from winter to summer. Attracts honeyeaters. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.

Medium shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



Teneriffe Daisy / Marguerite Daisy *Argyranthemum frutescens*
(Canary Islands)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: wind, humans (deliberate plantings and garden waste)



Myrtle-leaf Milkwort *Polygala myrtifolia*
(South Africa)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: birds, ants, water



Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. monilifera*
(South Africa)
Flowers: late autumn to winter
Reproduces: fleshy fruit containing seed
Dispersal: birds, rabbits, foxes, stock, humans (soil movement, garden waste)



Succulents
(Africa, Mediterranean)
Flowers: various
Reproduces: Most species will also spread by vegetative growth, some set seed
Dispersal: humans (deliberate plantings, garden waste), some by wind.



GROW ME instead



Coast Daisy Bush *Olearia axillaris*
Shrub to 3m. Leaves dark blue-green above, white below. White, daisy-like flowers occur along stems in summer and autumn. Grows quickly, lives 6-10 years. Benefits from pruning. Screening plant, foliage contrast. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Small-leaved Blue-bush *Maireana brevifolia*
Shrub to waist high. Succulent, small green-red leaves. Fruit has five paper-like wings. Food source for birds and small lizards. Great colour contrast. Tolerates saline conditions, but not direct coastal exposure.



Common Fringe Myrtle *Calytrix tetragona*
Bushy shrub to 1 metre, small leaves, produces masses of pink to white star-shaped flowers in spring followed by a colourful display as flowers dry out naturally. Sun or light shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Cushion Fanflower *Scaevola crassifolia*
Spreading robust shrub to 1m high, 1m wide. Bright green slightly serrated leaves, flowers bright blue to pale purple, fan-shaped, occur spring to early summer. Attractive flowers. Full-sun.



Notable Wattle *Acacia notabilis*
Elegant shrub 1-3m. Long, rounded blue-green leaves (phyllodes). Bright yellow ball shaped flowers occur in clusters, late winter to spring. Full sun. Will not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Coast Velvet-bush *Lasiopetalum discolor*
Shrub to 1m, leaves bright green, dull underneath. Clusters of pink flowers with deep red centres occur winter to spring. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!



Beach Daisy *Arctotheca populifolia*
(South Africa)
Flowers: winter to summer
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: wind, tidal currents



White Arctotis *Arctotis stoechadifolia*
(South Africa)
Flowers: spring to summer
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: wind, humans (deliberate planting, garden waste)



Hottentot Fig *Carpobrotus edulis*
(South Africa)
Flowers: late summer to winter
Reproduces: fleshy fruit in summer, also spreads by vegetative production
Dispersal: animals, humans (deliberate plantings, garden waste)



Gazania *Gazania* sp.
(South Africa)
Flowers: most of year, mainly spring to autumn
Reproduces: seed, vegetatively
Dispersal: water, humans (deliberate planting, garden waste)



Common Stock *Matthiola incana*
(Mediterranean, North Africa)
Flowers: spring to summer, purple, pink or white flowers
Reproduces: seed
Dispersal: wind, birds, humans (deliberate planting, garden waste)



Seascape Daisy *Osteospermum fruticosum*
(Africa and Arabia)
Flowers: spring
Reproduces: vegetatively
Dispersal: humans (garden waste, vegetative spread, deliberate planting)



GROW ME instead



Salmon Correa *Correa pulchella*
Attractive shrub growing 0.5 to 1m tall, 1-2m spread. Bell-shaped flowers occur in pink, red or orange from winter to spring. Attracts birds. Semi shade to full sun. Will not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Creeping Boobialla *Myoporum parvifolium*
Groundcover growing shin high to 5m wide. Small green leaves, dainty white or pale purple flowers in spring or summer. Good soil stabiliser. Space filler. Trail down rock walls. Lawn replacement (where no foot traffic). Attracts butterflies, provides shelter for small lizards. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Climbing Saltbush *Einadia nutans*
Groundcover spreading 1 to 2m, will climb if supported. Small arrowhead shaped green leaves, insignificant green flowers turn to red/orange edible berries. Attracts native birds and butterflies. Sun or shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Common Everlasting *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (*Helichrysum apiculatum*)
Herb to knee high. Silver-grey leaves, clusters of bright-yellow daisy flowers, October to January. Works well in natural cottage and contemporary gardens. Long-lasting flower, looks great as a cut flower, can also be dried. Butterfly food source. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs

GROW ME instead



Muntries *Kunzea pomifera*

Ground-hugging shrub with branches extending over several metres. Thick bright green leaves, showy white fluffy flowers in spring and early summer. Purple berries. Space filler. Suitable for pots and hanging baskets. Full-sun to semi-shade. Ripe fruits are edible.



Cushion Bush *Leucopyhta brownii*

Compact, rounded shrub to 1m. Silver-grey foliage, pale yellow ball-shaped flowers in summer. Great structural form, provides colour and texture contrast. Responds well to regular pruning. Full-sun.



Native Pelargonium *Pelargonium australe*

Herb to knee high. Large green velvety leaves, pale pink flowers with purple stripe occur spring to summer. Pretty plant, great in cottage or bushland garden. Can plant in pots. Prune after flowering. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Native Fuchsia *Correa reflexa*

Small shrub with dark green leaves, pink bell flowers in winter and spring. Attractive flowers, great in formal, cottage or bushland garden settings. Attracts birds. Full-sun to shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Native Pigface *Carpobrotus rossii*

Thick, fleshy groundcover. Green leaves triangular in cross-section, large bright pink flowers occur in spring. Attractive ground-cover, soil stabiliser. Suitable as trailing plant for pots or down walls. Ripe fruits are edible.

GROW ME instead



Paper Flower *Thomasia petalocalyx*

Attractive small shrub to 0.6m tall by 0.6m spread. Crinkly green leaves, small sprays of pink papery flowers occur spring to early summer. Sun to semi shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Round-leaf Pigface *Disphyma crassifolium*

Succulent groundcover plant. Green leaves round in cross section, bright pink flowers in spring. Attractive ground-cover, soil stabiliser. Trail over rock walls. Tolerates saline soils. Full-sun to shade.



Ruby Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa*

Low shrub to 1m. Leaves small, blue-green, fleshy. Yellow to red fleshy fruits produced through-out the year. Attracts native wildlife. Responds well to pruning (can prune seasonally if starts to dominate garden bed). Full-sun to semi-shade. Ripe fruits are edible.



DON'T PLANT a garden escape!

GROW ME instead



Couch Grass *Cynodon dactylon*
(Tropics world-wide)
Flowers: late spring to early summer
Reproduces: sets seed in summer, also spreads vegetatively (including lawn clippings)
Dispersal: water, garden waste



Fountain Grass *Pennisetum setaceum*
(East Africa and Middle East)
Flowers: summer to autumn.
Reproduces: via seed. Dispersal: wind, water, humans (clothing, garden waste, deliberate planting)



Kikuyu *Pennisetum clandestinum*
(East Asia)
Flowers: summer to autumn.
Reproduces: vegetative reproduction (eg. lawn clippings).
Dispersal: water, humans (soil movement, garden waste, vegetative spread from properties)



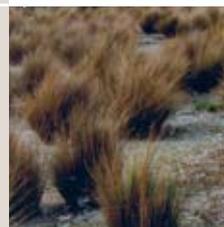
Buffalo Grass *Stenotaphrum secundatum*
(Africa, North and South America)
Flowers: spring to autumn
Reproduces: vegetatively, sometimes seed
Dispersal: water, humans (garden waste, soil movement, vegetative spread from properties), livestock faeces



Wallaby Grass *Austrodanthonia* sp.
Clumping grass to knee high, fluffy white seed heads in summer. Plant in clumps, good in bush garden setting. Attracts wildlife including butterflies.



Knobby Club-rush *Ficinia nodosa* (*Isolepis nodosa*)
Attractive evergreen clumping plant to 1m high. Leaves dark-green, cylindrical and up-right. Flower heads brown ball-shaped, occur all year. Versatile plant. Use as accent, group plantings, pot-plants, around ponds. Tolerates salt spray and wet zones. Attracts butterflies. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Coast Spear-grass *Austrostipa* spp.
Tussock grass species of varying heights, with flowering stems to 1m. Use coastal species *A. flavescens* (tall) and *A. elegantissima* (small and compact). Plant in clumps, suitable for mass plantings. Showy when in flower. Fill in spaces or border plantings. Attracts butterflies.



Sword Sedge *Lepidosperma gladiatum*
Sedge to 1m high with wide, flat leaves (like a gladiator's sword!) Brown flower heads present winter to summer. Plant in large or small clumps. Good accent plant, use in borders, foliage contrast. Suitable pot-plant. If unavailable, substitute with Knobby Club-rush or Short-stem Flax-lily.



Short-stem Flax-lily *Dianella brevicaulis*
Small clumping plant to knee high. Leaves strappy and stiff, blue-green. Blue flowers produced on narrow stalks within foliage line, spring. *D. revoluta* flowers above the foliage line on wiry stalks to 1m (does not tolerate direct coastal exposure). Great for borders, large or small group plantings, pots and indoors. Full-sun to shade.



Coast Tussock-grass *Poa poiformis*
Tussock grass growing to knee high. Thin blue-green leaves, brown-yellow flower heads. Tight foliage. Great in small or large group plantings, also rockeries, borders and pots. Full-sun.

DON'T PLANT a garden escape!

GROW ME instead



Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides*

(South Africa)

Flowers: spring

Reproduces: red berries containing seed in late spring, also spreads via underground tuber

Dispersal: red berries containing seed in late spring, also spreads via underground tubers



Native Lilac *Hardenbergia violacea*

Climber or shrub with trailing and twining stems. Dark green leaves, clumps of bright purple pea flowers in winter. Attractive climber, trailing pot-plant or small shrub. Attracts butterflies. Full-sun to shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Bridal Veil *Asparagus declinatus*

(South Africa)

Flowers: winter

Reproduces: green/blue berries containing seed in late winter/early spring, also spreads via underground tubers

Dispersal: birds, foxes, lizards, humans (garden waste)



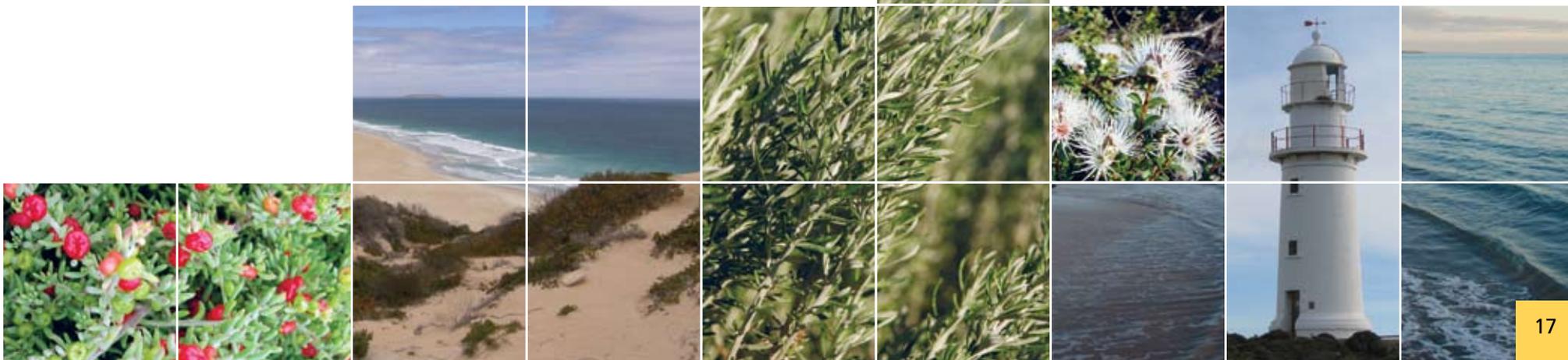
Sweet Appleberry *Billardiera cymosa*

Climber or small shrub to shin high. Dark green leaves, striking purple to blue flowers in spring, red/purple berries in summer. Attracts butterflies. Full-sun to semi-shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.



Old Man's Beard *Clematis decipiens* (*C. microphylla*)

Climber reaching several metres with support, can also be planted as groundcover. Masses of pale green/white flowers occur winter to early spring. Female flowers turn to fluffy seeds late spring. Full sun to partial shade. Does not tolerate direct coastal exposure.

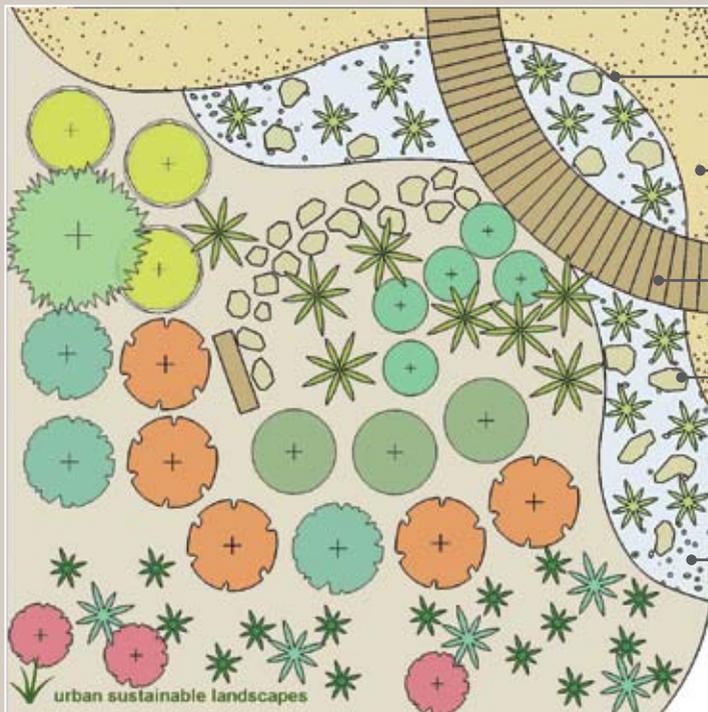


Natural cottage garden design (front yard)

These gardens are relaxed and flowing, and are a wonderful place for local wildlife. To achieve a natural cottage garden, mimic the flow and mix of plant species in natural coastal areas. Allow plants to cascade over paths and lace through one another. Utilise weaving paths and rustic furniture. Add a bird bath or hollow logs to attract and support local wildlife. A natural cottage garden is easy to achieve with local coastal plants as many species flower in winter, providing a colourful garden year-round.

The design below shows how you can use local plants to create a natural cottage style garden in your front yard. Front yards have a focus on street presentation and welcome people to your home. The plants featured in the design can mostly tolerate direct coastal exposure and won't block sea views. Apply this design to your own backyard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own.

House area



Driveway area

Galvanised steel or brick edging

Fine compacted gravel (1-4mm)

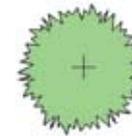
Recycled sleepers flush to ground

Large rocks

Coarse gravel (20mm) in contrasting colour to fine gravel

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

Trees and tall shrubs



Common Boobialla

Medium Shrubs



Small-leaved Blue-bush

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Native Pigface



Cushion Bush



Muntries



Ruby Saltbush



Creeping Boobialla

Grasses and sedges



Coast Tussock Grass



Sword Sedge



Short Stem Flax Lily

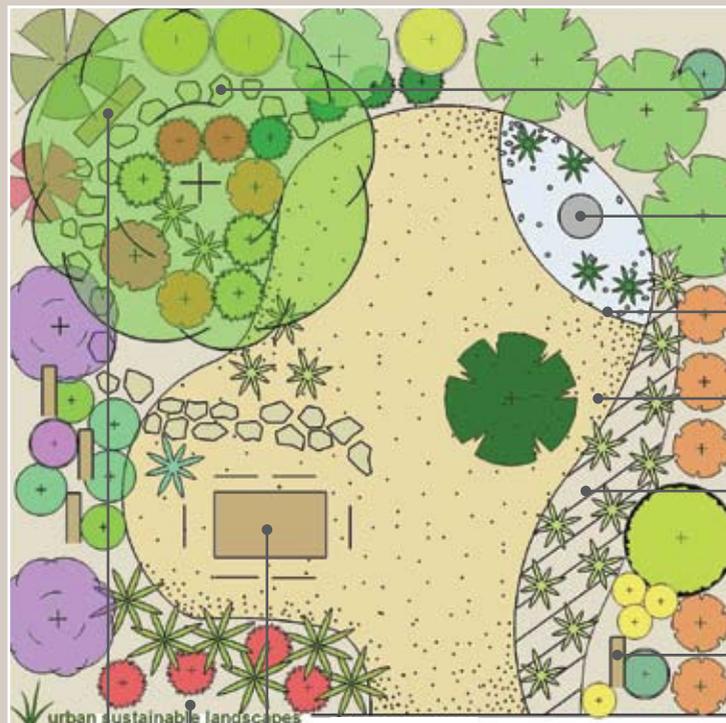


Knobby Club Rush

Natural cottage garden design (backyard)

These gardens are relaxed and flowing, and are a wonderful place for local wildlife. To achieve a natural cottage garden, mimic the flow and mix of plant species in natural coastal areas. Allow plants to cascade over paths and lace through one another. Utilise weaving paths and rustic furniture. Add bird baths, hollow logs and nesting boxes to attract and support local wildlife. A natural cottage garden is easy to achieve with local coastal plants as many species flower in winter, providing a colourful garden year-round.

The design below shows how you can use local plants to create a natural cottage style garden in your backyard. This backyard design has a focus on open space, while providing privacy and social areas. The backyard has protection from direct coastal exposure so a greater variety plants can be utilised, including those with height. Apply this design to your own backyard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own.



Driveway area

Flat stepping stone rock bed into ground

Bird bath

Galvanised steel or brick edging

Fine compacted gravel (1-4mm)

Mounded soil

Recycled upright sleeper

House area

Mulch

Bench

Table and chairs

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

Trees and tall shrubs



Mallee Eucalypts



Scrubby Cypress-pine

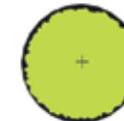


Drooping Sheoak



Sticky Hop-bush

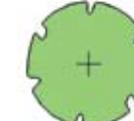
Medium Shrubs



Notable Wattle



Cushion Fanflower



Coast Daisy Bush



Coast Velvet-bush



Small-leaved Blue-bush

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Common Everlasting



Native Fuchsia



Salmon Correa



Native Pelargonium



Native Pig-face



Muntries



Ruby Saltbush

Grasses and sedges



Coast Tussock-grass



Knobby Club-rush



Sword Sedge



Short-stem Flax-lily

Climbers



Sweet Appleberry



Old Man's Beard



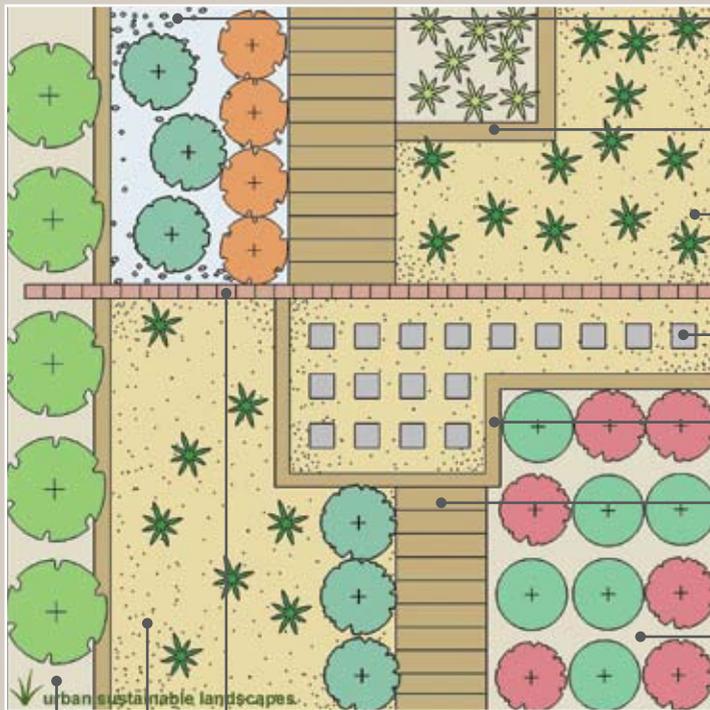
Native Lilac

Contemporary garden design (front yard)

Contemporary gardens feature bold modern designs, with an emphasis on contrasts of colour, texture and form. Many local coastal plants offer excellent colour and texture to provide opportunity for bold designs. To develop your own contemporary garden, create interesting garden bed shapes using a mix of plants and landscaping materials that provide strong contrasts.

The design below shows how you can use local plants to create a contemporary style garden in your front yard. Front yards have a focus on street presentation and welcome people to your home. The plants featured in the design can mostly tolerate direct coastal exposure and won't block sea views. Apply this design to your own backyard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own.

House area



Driveway area

Coarse gravel (20mm) in contrasting colour to fine gravel

Recycled sleeper edging

Fine compacted gravel (1-4mm)

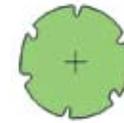
Square paving slabs set in fine gravel

Recycled sleeper edging

Recycled sleepers set in ground

Mulch

Medium Shrubs



Coast Daisy Bush

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Native Pig-face



Muntries



Cushion Bush



Ruby Saltbush

Grasses and sedges



Knobby Club-rush



Short-stem Flax-lily

Mulch

Brick edging

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

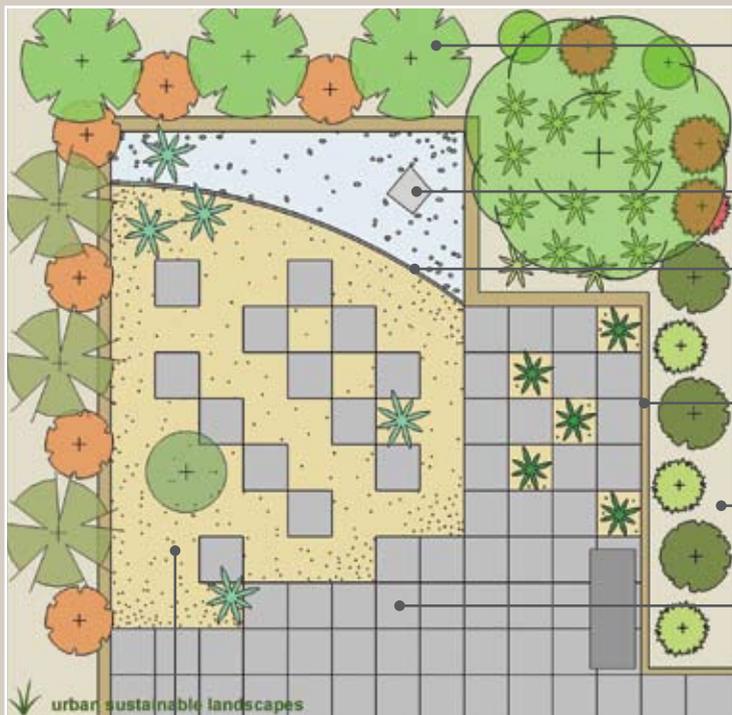
Fine compacted gravel (1-4mm)

Contemporary garden design (back yard)

Contemporary gardens feature bold modern designs, with an emphasis on contrasts of colour, texture and form. Many local coastal plants offer excellent colour and texture to provide opportunity for bold designs. To develop your own contemporary garden, create interesting garden bed shapes using a mix of plants and landscaping materials that provide strong contrasts. A simple outdoor setting suits contemporary style gardens.

The design below shows how you can use local plants to create a contemporary style garden in your backyard. This backyard design has a focus on open space, while providing privacy and social areas. The backyard has protection from direct coastal exposure so a greater variety plants can be utilised, including those with height. Apply this design to your own backyard or use some of the elements to create a design of your own.

House area



House area

Fine compacted gravel (1-4mm)

0 1 2 3 4 5 m

Shrub border

Birdbath or sculpture

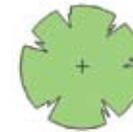
Brick or concrete or steel or timber edging

Sleeper or brick edging

Mulch

Large format pavers

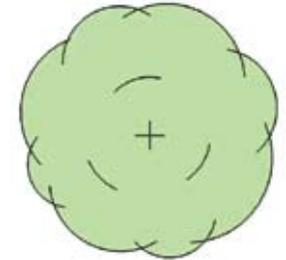
Trees and tall shrubs



Scubby Cypress-pine



Sticky Hop-bush



Mallee Eucalypt

Medium Shrubs



Common Fringe Myrtle

Groundcovers, herbs and small shrubs



Native Fuchsia



Salmon Correa



Ruby Saltbush



Creeping Boobialla

Grasses and sedges



Short-stem Flax-lily



Knobby Club-rush



Sword Sedge

Climbers



Sweet Appleberry

Growing local coastal plants

When to plant

Planting is best done in the cooler months through autumn and winter. The ideal time is after the autumn opening rains when the soil is moist, and plants have ample time to establish roots before the warm weather kicks in.

Watering

Water-in your new plants. Over the first summer they may need an occasional deep watering, but no more than once a week. After their first summer, they should cope on rainfall alone. Prior to severe heat waves, give your plants a thorough watering, so water penetrates deep into the soil.

Your aim is to establish strong, deep root systems which are water-efficient and drought tolerant. Over-watering leaches nutrients from the soil and creates excessive growth, less flowering and shorter-lived plants.

Be mindful of current water restrictions and the prescribed times allocated to gardeners for watering.

Mulch and gravels

A layer of mulch added to your garden can reduce evaporative water loss by more than seventy percent.¹ Organic mulch keeps soil temperatures down, which benefits root density, suppresses weed growth, and helps to promote good soil structure and productivity.

Apply 5–10 cm of mulch or gravel, creating a bowl shape around the plant to help retain water. To avoid plant disease, keep mulch away from plant stems.

¹SA Department for Environment and Heritage – www.backyards4wildlife.com.au

Fertilising

Fertilisers aren't usually needed with local native plants. If you decide to fertilise, seek advice from your local nursery, as products with high levels of phosphorus can harm some local native plants. You'll want to avoid rapid growth that makes your local plants leggy, weak and short-lived.

Maintaining your local plants

Pruning is beneficial for many local plants. Most species will appreciate a light trim to keep their shape, promote new growth and encourage flowering. Pruning is best done after flowering, usually late spring or early summer. Young plants can be pruned lightly and regularly. Older plants can be refreshed with a more extensive prune after flowering. Replace old plants that die or become straggly.

Potted local plants need a little more care than those planted out in gardens. Water your pot plants more regularly in summer, and apply a low-phosphorus fertiliser in spring and summer (check with your local nursery which product is best). Don't over-apply fertiliser as it can harm local native plants. Some plants may need re-potting in the future.

Sustainable landscaping

You can help the environment by using sustainable and locally sourced materials, and avoid materials taken from natural ecosystems, such as moss rocks, river stones, fallen logs and red gum mulch. More information on sustainable landscaping can be found on the Botanic Gardens website. www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/programs/landscapes.html

More information

For further information on establishing local native plants and how you can make your garden wildlife friendly, visit the Urban Forest Biodiversity Program website www.backyards4wildlife.com.au



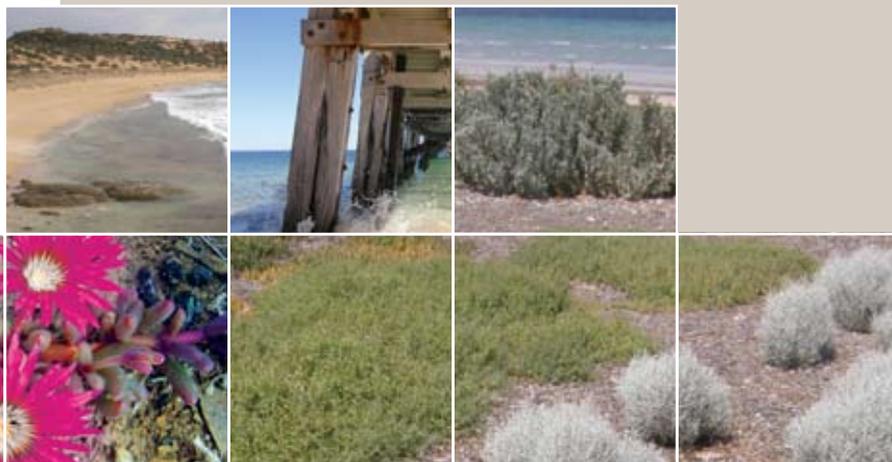
Sourcing local coastal plants

Unfortunately, not all nurseries around South Australia stock local coastal plants. Native plant nurseries can be found at www.backyards4wildlife.com.au Alternatively, contact your local council's Environmental Officer or phone the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board on (08) 8636 2361.

Ask your local plant nursery for plants that are of 'local provenance' meaning plants grown from seeds or cuttings collected from your local area, catchment or neighbourhood. These plants have adapted to local conditions, so are the best plants for your garden.

You can often place orders in advance with local nurseries in late spring – early summer to collect for late autumn planting. Advance orders are recommended if you want larger quantities of plants, or don't want to substitute if species aren't available. Many growers are also able to supply plants for commercial orders such as councils, schools, other nurseries, industries and landscapers.

Keep an eye out for local plant giveaways which are sometimes run by your council in winter – these will be advertised in your local paper and are extremely popular!



Useful resources

These resources are complementary to this guide. From picturesque images of our local coastline, to more in depth gardening resource material, they may provide further inspiration and information. Happy planting!

Internet

- The Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board, in conjunction with Local Government, are establishing a series of Coastal Garden Plant Demonstration sites within their region. For locations and further information visit www.nynrm.sa.gov.au
- Find some inspiration in the coastal demonstration garden at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Pt Augusta. For further information visit www.australian-aridlands-botanic-garden.org
- On-line Native Vegetation Guide for Northern and Yorke Region (select 'coastal') www.plantguide.org.au
- Backyards for Wildlife www.backyards4wildlife.com.au
- State Flora www.stateflora.com.au
- Trees for Life www.treesforlife.org.au
- Your local council's website
- Garden Plants that are Known to Become Serious Coastal Weeds www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/pdfs/no34.pdf
- Sustainable Landscapes Project www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/sustainable.html
- Sustainable Gardening Australia website www.sgaonline.org.au

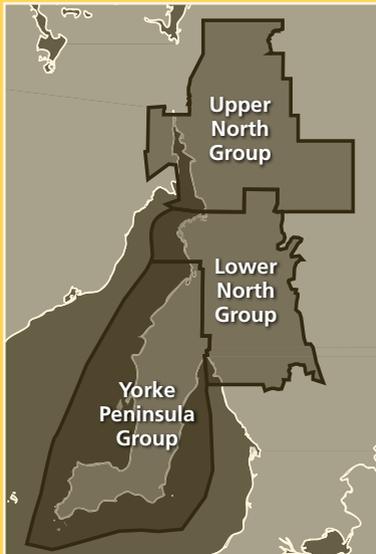
Books

- The Native Plants of Adelaide – Phil Bagust and Lynda Tout-Smith
- Mangroves to Mallee - Greening Australia SA

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