



GLEN EIRA  
CITY COUNCIL

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# GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL PREFERRED PLANTS





# PREFERRED PLANTS

There are many local species of grasses and ground covers appropriate for planting on a nature strip.

Planting species that are indigenous to the Sandbelt Region of Melbourne (south of the Yarra River, along the Port Phillip Bay coastline, extending to Frankston) can increase biodiversity and provide habitat for native birds and animals.

Below is a selection of recommended native and indigenous species which would be suited to nature-strip planting. This list is not exhaustive. You may use other plant species that meet the requirements of the Guidelines.

## GRASSES AND TUFTED PLANTS



### Chocolate lily

*Arthropodium strictum*

Description of plant: chocolate scented deep pink to mauve flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained soil.

Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 60cm high, 20cm to 80cm wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)



### Bulbine lily

*Bulbine bulbosa*

Description: Grass-like with yellow flowers in spring, summer and autumn.

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained, moist soil.

Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 20cm to 40cm high, 20cm to 30cm wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)



### Matted flax-lily

*Dianella amoena*

Description: matt forming, strappy-leaved plant. Pale blue to blue-violet flowers.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Frost tolerant.

Dimensions: 120cm to 40cm high.

Photo: : © Neville Walsh, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)

**Pale flax-lily**

*Dianella longifolia* var. *longifolia*

Description: Strappy plant. Blue flowers followed by blue berries.

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods. Dimensions: 30cm to 60cm high, 50cm wide

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)

**Spreading flax-lily**

*Dianella revoluta*

Description: Strappy plant. Blue flowers followed by blue berries.

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods. Dimensions: 50cm to 60cm high, 80cm wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)

**Wattle Mat-rush**

*Lomandra filiformis*

Description: compact, tufted perennial.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Frost and drought tolerant.

Dimensions: 50cm high.

Photo: © A.N. Shmidt-Lebuhn, <https://www.anbg.gov.au/photo/image-collection.html>

**Weeping grass**

*Microlaena stipoides*

Description: variable tufted to matt-forming perennial grass.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Frost tolerant.

Dimensions: up to 20cm high.

Photo: © Ian Clarke, [www.vicflora.rb.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rb.gov.au)

**Long purple-flag**

*Patersonia occidentalis*

Description: tufted herb, flowers spring through summer with purple-blue flowers.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Frost tolerant.

Dimensions: 20cm to 50cm high.

Photo: © Geoff Lay, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)

**Common tussock grass**

*Poa labillardieri*

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 70cm high, 40cm wide

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)

**Coastal tussock grass**

*Poa poiformis*

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 70cm high, 40cm wide

Photo: Plants of the Elster Creek Area, [www.elster-creek.org.au](http://www.elster-creek.org.au)

**Common wallaby-grass**

*Rytidosperma caespitosum*

Description: variable tufted perennial.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Frost tolerant.

Dimensions: 20cm to 40cm high.

Photo: © Neil Blair, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Grass triggerplant

*Stylidium graminifolium*

Description: tufted perennial, pink flowers in spring.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Well drained soils.

Dimensions: 5cm to 20cm high.

Photo: © Neil Blair, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Kangaroo grass

*Themeda triandra*

Description: tufted grass, distinct red-brown spikelets in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Hardy in a range of soils, withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 50cm high, 50cm wide.

Photo: © Ilma Dunn, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)

## HERBS AND WILDFLOWERS



### Austral bugle

*Ajuga australis*

Description: prostrate to ascending herb, violet to blue flowers.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Hardy in a range of soils, withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 50cm high, can spread up to 3m.

Photo: © Geoff Carle, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Cut-leaf daisy

*Brachyscome multifida*

Description: Various varieties with different-coloured flowers in spring, summer and autumn

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade.

Dimensions: 20cm to 40cm high, 80cm to 1.2m wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)



### Blue pincushion

*Brunonia australis*

Description: small clumping perennial, blue flowers.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Hardy in a range of soils although requires good drainage, withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 10cm to 50cm high.

Photo: © Graham and Maree Goods, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Lemon beauty-heads

*Calocephalus citreus*

Description: Yellow flowers in spring

Growing preferences: Prefers full sun and slightly damper sites.

Dimensions: 15cm to 60cm high, 30cm wide.

Photo: © J. Lindner, [www.greeningaustralia.org.au](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au)



### Common everlasting

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

Description: Yellow flowers in spring, summer and autumn

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained soil. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 30cm to 50cm high x 1.3m wide

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)



### Murnong

*Microseris lanceolata*

Description: small, tuberous perennial, yellow flowers.

Growing preferences: full sun preferred. Hardy in a range of soils, drought tolerant but performs better with care.

Dimensions: to 50cm high.

Photo: © N.G. Karunajeewa, [www.vicflora.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.vic.gov.au)





### Austral stork's-bill

*Pelargonium australe*

Description: white to pink flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Hardy in a range of soils.

Dimensions: to 50cm high.

Photo: © David Pitts (DELWP), [www.vicflora.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.vic.gov.au)



### Chamomile sunray

*Rhodanthe anthemoides*

Description: perennial, white paper daisy flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun preferred.

Dimensions: to 30cm high.

Photo: © Geoff Lay, [www.vicflora.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.vic.gov.au)



### Ivy-leaved violet

*Viola hederaceae*

Description: white, purple, mauve flowers all year.

Growing preferences: full sun to shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 5cm to 20cm high, spreading.

Photo: © Neville Walsh, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Tufted bluebell

*Wahlenberia communis*

Description: Blue flowers in spring and summer

Growing preferences: Full sun or partial shade. Prefers well-drained, moist soil.

Dimensions: 15cm to 50cm high, 15cm to 40cm wide

Photo: (CC BY 2.5 AU) Russell Best, [natureshare.org.au](http://natureshare.org.au)



### Sticky everlasting

*Xerochrysum viscosum*

Description: long flowering everlasting daisy, yellow flowers.

Growing preferences: full sun preferred, well drained soils.

Dimensions: 20cm to 80cm high.

Photo: © Neil Blair, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)

## GROUNDCOVERS AND CREEPING PLANTS



### Creeping bossiaea

*Bossiaea prostrata*

Description: yellow flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers slightly damper sites.

Dimensions: 5cm to 10cm high, 1m wide.

Photo: © Neville Walsh, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Karkalla

*Carpobrotus rossii*

Description: Purple flowers

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained soils. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 20cm high, 2.5m wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)



### Bent goodenia

*Goodenia geniculata*

Description: Yellow flowers in spring and summer

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 5cm to 10cm high, 30cm wide

Photo: (CC BY 2.5 AU) Russell Best, [natureshare.org.au](http://natureshare.org.au)





### Running Postman

*Kennedia prostrata*

Description: Scarlet pea-shaped flowers in spring and summer.

Growing preferences: Full sun to part shade. Prefers well-drained soil. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: Prostrate, 10cm high, 1m to 2m wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)



### River Mint

*Mentha australis*

Description: soft herb, strongly scented foliage.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers regular watering.

Dimensions: 30cm to 70cm high, spreads through rhizomes.

Photo: © Neil Blair, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Creeping boobiala

*Myoporum parvifolium*

Description: Dense foliage with white flowers in spring, summer and autumn.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Withstands dry periods.

Dimensions: 10cm to 20cm high, 1.5m to 2m wide.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)



### Matted bush-pea

*Pultenaea pedunculata*

Description: prostrate, mat forming shrub, yellow to orange flowers in spring.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Well drained soils, drought tolerant.

Dimensions: prostrate, can spread to 2m.

Photo: © Colleen Miller, [www.victorianflora.com](http://www.victorianflora.com)

## SMALL SHRUBS



### Thin-leaf wattle

*Acacia aculeatissima*

Description: spreading, low growing to prostrate shrub, yellow flowers.  
Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Frost and drought tolerant once established.

Dimensions: prostrate to 50cm high, spreads to 1.5m.

Photo: © Ian McCann, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Grey parrot-pea

*Dillwynia cinerascens*

Description: erect, compact or sprawling shrub, orange to yellow flowers.  
Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Well drained soil.  
Dimensions: 30cm to 1m high.

Photo: © Marc Freestone, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Saloop

*Einadia hastata*

Description: low, shrubby perennial.  
Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers good drainage.  
Dimensions: prostrate to 50cm high.

Photo: © Neil Blair, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Woolly grevillea

*Grevillea lanigera*

Description: small spreading shrub, pink to red flowers in late winter.  
Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Well drained soils, drought tolerant.  
Dimensions: 50cm to 1m high, can spread to 1.5m.

Photo: © Neil Blair, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Hoary Guinea-flower

*Hibbertia obtusifolia*

Description: low spreading shrub, yellow flowers through spring into summer.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Prefers good drainage.

Dimensions: 30cm to 70cm high.

Photo: © Geoff Lay, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Cushion bush

*Leucophyta brownii*

Description: densely branched, compact shrub with striking silver foliage.

Growing preferences: full sun preferred. Good drainage essential.

Dimensions: 1m high x 1m wide rounded shrub.

Photo: © Neil Blair, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)



### Pimelea humilis

*Common Rice-flower*

Description: small compact shrub, clusters of white flowers in spring.

Growing preferences: full sun to part shade. Drought and frost tolerant.

Dimensions: 50cm to 60cm high.

Photo: © Neil Blair, [www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)





**GLEN EIRA**  
CITY COUNCIL

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