



A Guide to Plant Selection and Care in the Bathurst Region

This booklet is the result of collaboration between a number of interest groups and experienced individuals who value the vegetation of the Bathurst region. It aims to provide guidance to local gardeners in planning and maintaining their gardens, but does not seek to replace the many other useful sources of information including books and magazines, web-sites and helpful advice offered by local nurseries and other gardeners.

It should be noted that the list of plants detailed within this booklet is specific to the Bathurst region, but is not intended to cover all of the species that can be successfully grown. Gardeners should consult other sources of information and their local nursery when making plant selections for their site.

The names used when planning or purchasing plant selections is important and can be confusing. This booklet uses botanical and common names and in some cases refers to cultivated varieties (*cvs*). In many cases more than one species of a particular plant may be available, with each species displaying quite different characteristics. The term *spp* is used to indicate this. It is recommended that care is taken to ensure that the correct plant is purchased.

Additional information regarding trees, the enhancement of our native vegetation and the vegetation themes that Council has adopted for the Bathurst City area is available within the Bathurst Vegetation Management Plan. This Plan can be viewed on the Council's web site www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au





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SECTION 1: A BRIEF HORTICULTURAL HISTORY

The landscape of the region had been actively managed by the indigenous Wiradjuri people for millennia before European settlement. The people understood the landscape and its vegetation and many plants were used as resources to sustain a successful and vibrant culture.

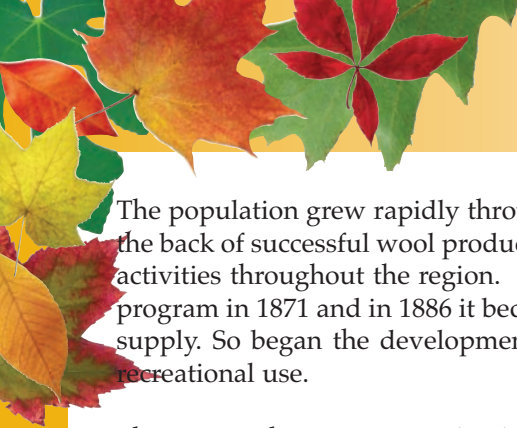
Although detailed descriptions of the vegetation of the region at the time of European settlement are sketchy, it is generally accepted to have been dominated by Grasslands and Woodlands with widely spaced trees of mixed ages. Shrubs were sparse, although more prevalent in moist areas. Grasses and herbs were very prominent with a great diversity of species.

The settlement at the current site of Bathurst was established in 1815. Land clearance for grazing and agriculture and timber harvesting for cooking, construction and mining rapidly brought about dramatic changes to the landscape and vegetation of the region.

In the early days of the settlement, the limited availability of water restricted horticulture largely to market gardening and cropping on the river flats, but as the region became more affluent, ornamental horticulture and particularly the introduction of European trees became popular, to make the landscape look more familiar to the new migrants.



Pear Tree - Miss Traill's House



The population grew rapidly through the later half of the nineteenth century, on the back of successful wool production on the river flats and to a range of mining activities throughout the region. Bathurst Council commenced its tree planting program in 1871 and in 1886 it became the first country town with a piped water supply. So began the development of urban gardens and public parklands for recreational use.

The twentieth century saw land subdivision in Bathurst and the surrounding Villages, and across the rural landscape. In rural areas, tree clearance continued on the productive lands, leaving only scattered remnants of native vegetation. By contrast, in the urban areas, native vegetation was largely replaced by a diverse range of exotic plants and has resulted in an urban forest with many more trees and shrubs than would have been present prior to non-indigenous settlement.

SECTION 2: SOILS

There is great variety in the soil types across the extent of the Bathurst region, ranging from the deep red and fertile basaltic soils of the Yetholme and Vittoria districts, to the stony metamorphic slopes and ridges of Napoleon Reef, Peel and Billiwillinga. Bathurst City is dominated by decomposing granite soils and fertile alluvial deposits on the floodplains and creek-line corridors.

The Bathurst Granites are characterised by a dull yellow /brown or grey /brown sub-soil of dense material ranging from a sandy clay loam to heavy clay. This sub-soil may be exceedingly hard, heavy, and at times wet. It may have an alkaline pH of up to 8-8.5. Perhaps the best way to manage and improve these soils for ornamental gardening is to mulch and compost thickly and frequently with a variety of organic materials. The use of acidic mulches, such as pine needles may be a useful practice especially if acid-loving plants are being grown.

Do not use black plastic or weed mats on these soils as they tend to restrict the growing ability of the heavy sub-soil.

Physical aeration with a garden fork or tyned roller may be beneficial; however the use of a rotary hoe may cause problems by glazing an impermeable layer at the base of the cut.





Chinese Pistacio



Horse Chestnut



Golden Ash



Crepe Myrtle



Pencil Pine

SECTION 3: PLANT LISTS

LARGE TREES (for large gardens, parks and streetscapes)

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = Evergreen D = Deciduous	Size height x width	Tree Features FL=Flowers FO=Foliage FR=Fruit B=Bark ST=Structure	Comments
Acer campestre	Field Maple	D	6x5	FO ST	usually single trunk, yellow autumn colour
A. negundo	Box Elder	D	10x10	FO ST	broad crown, good shade, some variegated varieties, potential weed
A. platanoides	Norway Maple	D	15x10	FO ST	several varieties, conical crown, autumn colour
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut	D	20x12	FO FL FR	large leaves, white/ pink flowers, edible nuts, protected spots
Castanea sativa	European Chestnut	D	15x10	ST FR	broad crown, attractive and edible nuts
Celtis australis	European Nettle Tree	D	10x8	ST	broad crown, good shade, hardy
Ceratonia siliqua	Carob Bean	E	10x8	FL FR	broad crown, edible seeds, fodder tree
Fraxinus excelsior 'Aurea'	Golden Ash	D	8x8	FO ST	broad crown, yellow autumn foliage, hardy
Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood'	Claret Ash	D	10x8	SO ST	broad crown, red autumn foliage, hardy
Gingko biloba	Maidenhair Tree	D	12x10	FO	attractive leaves, yellow autumn colour, slow grower
Gleditsia triacanthos & cvs	Honey Locust	D	15x10	FO FL	lacy foliage, varieties have different coloured leaves
Juglans spp	Walnut	D	10x10	ST FR	broad crown, good shade, edible nuts
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweet Gum	D	20x12	FO ST	upright crown, attractive leaves, extensive roots, autumn colour

LARGE TREES (for large gardens, parks and streetscapes) continued next page



LARGE TREES (for large gardens, parks and streetscapes) continued

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = evergreen D = deciduous	Size height x width	Tree Features FL=flowers FO=foliage FR=fruit B=bark ST=structure	Comments
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree	D	20x15	FO FL	attractive leaves and flowers, yellow autumn colour
Magnolia grandiflora	Bull Bay Magnolia	E	15x10	FO FL ST	broad crown, large leaves and flowers, high water use
Nyssa sylvatica	Tupelo	D	10x8	FO	spectacular autumn colour
Paulownia tomentosa	Royal Paulownia	D	15x12	FL	fast growing, large leaves, hanging violet flowers
Platanus x hybrida	London Plane Tree	D	20x15	FO ST B	broad crown, attractive bark, hardy
Quercus ilex	Holm Oak	E	20x15	ST	upright crown, deep shade
Q. coccinea	Scarlet Oak	D	20x15	FO ST	spreading crown, red autumn colour
Q. palustris	Pin Oak	D	15x12	FO ST	fast growing, red autumn colour but brown leaves may be retained
Q. robur	English Oak	D	15x15	FO ST	stately broad tree, yellow/brown autumn colour
Robinia psuedoacacia	False Acacia	D	20x15	FO	fast growing, woody spines, may sucker, 'Frisia' cv is a smaller tree
Tilia x europa	Linden	D	20x20	FL FO	spreading canopy, yellow autumn colour
Ulmus glabra and cvs	Wych Elm (various)	D	to 20	FO ST	various forms have weeping habit of golden foliage, non-suckering
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Weeping Elm	D	15x15	FO ST B	broad crowned, small leaves, mottled bark

SMALL TREES (for gardens less than 1,000square metres)

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = Evergreen D = Deciduous	Size height x width	Tree Features FL=Flowers FO=Foliage FR=Fruit B=Bark ST=Structure	Comments
Acer buergeranum	Trident Maple	D	6x3	FO	protected spots
A. davidii	Snakeskin Maple	D	8x5	FO B	straight trunk with striped bark
A. japonicum	Japanese Maple (various)	D	4x3	FO ST	many varieties, spring and autumn colour, slow growing, protected spots
A. palmatum	Japanese Maple	D	4x3	FO ST	many varieties, autumn colour, slow growing, protected spots
Albizia julibrissin	Silk Tree	D	5x5	FO FL	attractive feathery foliage, pink silky flowers
Alnus jorullensis	Evergreen Alder	E	8x5	FO	broad conical shape, protected spots
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	E	6x5	ST FR B	colourful bark, strawberry like fruit
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	D	10x5	ST B	slim tree, weeping habit, white bark, high water use
B. pendula 'Dalecarlica'	Cut Leaf Birch	D	10x5	ST B FO	graceful weeping habit, dissected leaves, high water use
Cercis siliquastrum	Judas Tree	D	6x4	FL FO	pink pea-type flowers, slow growing
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	D	4x4	FL FO FR	oval shaped tree, attractive flowers, autumn colour, touchy
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain Tree	D	6x5	FL FO FR	compound leaves, drooping yellow flowers, attractive seed pods, hardy
Lagerstroemia indica	Crepe Myrtle	D	to 6m	FL B	can be pruned as a large shrub, bright summer flowers

SMALL TREES (for gardens less than 1,000square metres) continued next page



SMALL TREES (for gardens less than 1,000square metres) continued

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = Evergreen D = Deciduous	Size height x width	Tree Features FL=Flowers FO=Foliage FR=Fruit B=Bark ST=Structure	Comments
Magnolia stellata	Star Magnolia	D	4x3	FL	early spring flowers before leaves
M. x soulangiana	Magnolia	D	5x5	FL ST	shapely oval tree, large bright spring flowers before leaves,
Malus spp and cvs	Crab Apple	D	5x4	FL FR	many varieties, a range of flower and fruit types, hardy
Mespilus germanica	Medlar	D	5x3	FL FR	attractive white flowers, interesting fruit, hardy
Pistacia chinensis	Pistacia	D	5x5	FO	compound leaves, autumn colour
Pittosporum euginioides 'Variegatum'	Variegated Pittosporum	E	5x3	FO ST	variegated leaves, densely foliated tear drop shape
P. tenuifolium	various cvs 'James Stirling' 'Silver Queen'	E	3x1.5	FO ST	columnar or tear drop shaped, small colourful leaves, dislikes wet spots
Prunus spp and cvs	various	D/E	to 5	FL/FR	many varieties grown for flower or fruit
Pyrus callieriana	Manchurian Pear	D	8x5	FO ST	fast growing, autumn colour, hardy
Sapium sebiferum	Chinese Tallow Tree	D	6x4	FO	fast growing, autumn colour, protected spots
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan Tree	D	8x4	FO FR	compound leaves, autumn colour
Tamarix parvifolia	Tamarisk	D	4x4	FL	conifer like foliage, pink flowers

SHRUBS

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = Evergreen D = Deciduous	Size height x width	Shrub Features FO=Foliage FL=Flowers FR=Fruit	Comments
Abelia spp	Abelia (various)	E	2x2	FL	coloured foliage
Aucuba japonica	Gold Dust	E	2x1.5	FO	shade, protected spots
Berberis thunbergii	Japanese Barberry	D	2.1.5	FO	purple foliage, sharp spines
Buxus spp	Box	E	2x2	FO	several varieties, topiary
Camellia spp	Camellia (various)	E	3x2	FL	protected spots, acidic soils
Ceanothus x edwardsii	Californian Lilac	E	2.5x2.5	FL	purple flowers, dry spots
Chaenomeles speciosa	Japonica	D	2.5x2.5	FL	white/ red flowers, thorns
Choisya ternata	Mexican Orange Blossom	E	1.5x1.5	FL	white flowers, protected spots
Cistus spp	Rock Rose (various)	E	to 2m	FL	oval shrub, bright flowers
Coleonema spp	Diosma (various)	E	1.5x1.5	FO	various foliage colour, aromatic
Coprosma repens	Looking Glass Plant	E	2x2	FO	colourful shiny foliage
Cornus spp	Red Stemmed Dogwood (various)	D	2x1.5	FO	colourful stems, protected spots
Cotinus coggyria	Smoke Bush	D	2x2	FO	purple foliage, hairy seeds
Cotoneaster spp	Cotoneaster (various)	E	3x3	FR	red berries, hardy, potential weed
Cytissus scoparius	Common Broom (various)	E	2x1.5	FL	bright flowers, potential weed
Daphne odora	Daphne	E	1x1	FL	perfume, protected spots, touchy
Eleagnus pungens	Japanese Oleaster	E	3x3	FO	colourful foliage, hardy

SHRUBS continued next page



SHRUBS *continued*

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = Evergreen D = Deciduous	Size height x width	Shrub Features FO=Foliage FL=Flowers FR=Fruit	Comments
Erica spp	Heath	E	0.5x1	FL	fine foliage, acidic soils
Escallonia spp	Escallonia (various)	E	2.5x2	FO	dense shrub, hardy
Euonymus japonicus	Spindle Tree (various)	E	3x2.5	FO	yellow / green foliage, hardy
Euphorbia wulfenii	Venetian Spurge	E	1x1	FO	cascading grey foliage, poisonous sap, potential weed
Euryops pectinatus	Euryops	E	1x1	FL	yellow flowers, grey foliage
Feijoa sellowiana	Fruit Salad Plant	E	3x3	FR	bushy shrub, red flowers, fruit
Forsythia viridissima	Golden Bells	D	3x3	FL	yellow early spring flowers
Garrya elliptica	Silk Tassel Bush	E	2.5.x2	FL	flowers are silky tassels
Hebe spp	Speedwell (various)	E	1x1	FL	dense oval shrub
Hibiscus syriacus	Rose of Sharon	D	4x3	FL	various flower colours, the only Hibiscus for Bathurst
Hydrangea spp	Hydrangea (various)	D	1x1	FL	protected spots, high water use, some types with autumn colour
Hypericum psuedohenryi	Hypericum	D	1x1	FL	bright yellow flowers
Ilex aquifolium	Holly (various)	E	5x3	FR	dense shrub, potential weed, hardy
Kerria japonica	Japanese Rose	D	2x2	FL	long slender canes, hardy
Kolkwitzia amabilis	Beauty Bush	D	3x2	FO	arching canes, hardy
Lavandula spp	Lavendar (various)	E	1x1	FL	soft grey foliage, aromatic
Michelia figo	Port Wine Magnolia	E	2x1.5	FO	small perfumed flowers

SHRUBS *continued next page*

SHRUBS *continued*

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = Evergreen D = Deciduous	Size height x width	Shrub Features FO=Foliage FL=Flowers FR=Fruit	Comments
Nandina domestica	Sacred Bamboo	E	2x1	FO	bamboo like canes, colourful foliage
Nandina domestica "Nana"	Nandina	E	0.5x0.5	FO	colourful foliage, hardy
Philadelphus spp.	Mock Orange	D	3x2	FO	protected spot, perfumed flowers, arching canes
Phormium tenax	New Zealand Flax	E	2x1.5	FO	clumping sword shaped leaves
Photinia spp.	Chinese Hawthorn (various)	E	4x3	FO	hedges, coloured foliage
Prunus glandulosa	Pink Bush Cherry	D	1.5x1.5	FL	arching canes, hardy
Pyracantha angustifolia	Firethorn	E	4x3	FR	thorns, potential weed, hardy
Raphiolepis spp	Indian Hawthorn	E	1x1	FO	oval shrub, high water use
Rhododendron spp	Rhododendron and Azalea (various)	E	to 4m	FL	acidic soils, difficult to grow well in Bathurst
Ribes sanguineum	Ornamental Currant	D	2x2	FL	arching canes, pink pendant flowers
Rosa spp	Rose (various)	D	to 3m	FL	many types for different sites
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary	E	1x1	FO	dense, aromatic, culinary, hardy
Spiraea spp.	May (various)	D	to 2m	FL	early spring flowers, arching canes
Syringa vulgaris	Lilac (various)	D	to 3m	FL	hedges, various flower colours
Teucrium fruticans	Shrubby Germander	E	2x2	FO	grey foliage, untidy shape
Viburnum spp.	Viburnum (various)	E/D	to 3m	FL	various types, protected spots
Weigela florida	Weigela (various)	D	2x2	FL	various types, protected spots, white/pink flowers



Sedum 'Autumn Joy'



Coastal Westringia



Gazania



Oleander

NATIVES

Species	Common Name	Plant Type T = Tree S = Shrub G = Ground Cover C = Climber	Size height x width	Plant Features L = Leaves Fl = Flowers B = Bark	Comments
A. dealbata	Silver Wattle	T	5x4	L F	fast growing, silvery foliage, hardy local species
A. rubida	Red Stemmed Wattle	T	5x4	L F	juvenile foliage is feathery but mature leaves are strap-like
A. baileyana	Cootamundra Wattle	T	4x4	L F	fast growing, short lifespan, attractive purple variety, potential weed
A. pravissima and cvs	Ovens Wattle	S/G	3x2	L F	sparse shrub, attractive triangular leaves, some ground cover cvs
Allocasuarina torulosa	Forest Oak	T	15x6	L	conical tree, drooping branchlets
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	S	4x3	L F	attractive yellow flower spikes, frost protection when young
Brachychiton populneum	Kurrajong	T	12x6	L	local woodland tree, protected spots, good fodder or windbreak tree
Brachycombe multifida & cvs	Australian Cut Leaf Daisy	G	.3x.3	L F	fern like foliage, pink or purple flowers
Correa pulchella & cvs	Dusky Bells	S	1x1	L F	shady spots, tubular pink flowers
Callistemon sieberi	River Bottlebrush	S	2x1.5	L F	weeping foliage, cream flowers
C. citrinus & cvs	Red Bottlebrush	S	2x1.5	F	bushy habit, showy red flowers
Casuarina cunninghamiana	River She Oak	T	20x10	L	conical tree, common on local creeks and rivers, fodder tree

NATIVES continued next page



NATIVES *continued*

Species	Common Name	Plant Type T = Tree S = Shrub G = Ground Cover C = Climber	Size height x width	Plant Features L = Leaves Fl = Flowers B = Bark	Comments
Clematis aristata	Old Man's Beard	G/C	vary	L F	pale green leaves, twiner, vigorous, white flowers, feathery seeds
Eriostemon myoporoides	Native Daphne	S	1x1	F	pink buds open into white star shaped flowers, likes pruning
Eucalyptus blakelyi	Blakelyi's Red Gum	T	15x10	B	local woodland tree, attractive smooth mottled bark
Eucalyptus leucoxylon	White Gum	T	15x10	F B	clusters of red /pink or white flowers, mostly smooth white bark
Grevillea lanigera &cvs	Woolly Grevillea	G	.3x2	L F	red /green foliage, red flowers
Grevillea rosmarinifolia	Rosemary Grevillea and cvs	S	2x2	F	dense prickly shrub, pink /red spider flowers, attracts birds
Hakea salicifolia	Willow Leafed Hakea	S	3x2	L	dense shrub, bronze new leaves, good for hedges and screens
Hardenbergia violacea	Native Sarsparilla	G/C	vary	L F	dark green leaves, twiner, purple flowers, hardy
Leptospermum scoparium &cvs	Broom Tea Tree	S	to 3	F	upright shrub, various flower types
Melaleuca decussata	Totem Pole	S	3x2	F	upright shrub, small greyish leaves, small cream/pink flowers
Myoporum parvifolium &cvs	Creeping Boobialla	G	.2x1	F	dense mat, bright green foliage, white/pink flower varieties
Prostanthera ovalifolia	Purple Mint Bush	S	3x2	F	aromatic leaves, purple flowers
Westringia fruticosa	Coastal Rosemary	S	1x1	L F	greyish foliage, white/purple flowers

LOW WATER USE PLANTS

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = Evergreen D = Deciduous	Size height x width μ	Plant Features L = Leaves Fl = Flowers B = Bark	Comments
Abelia grandiflora	Glossy Abelia	E	2 x 2	L F	shrub, colourful cascading foliage, small leaves
Acacia spp	Wattle	E	various	F	many varieties of native of groundcovers shrubs and trees, yellow flowers
Agapanthus praecox and cvs	Agapanthus	E	Less than 1 m	F	Strap-like leaves, clusters of blue or white flowers on 1 m stems
Amaryllis belladonna	Naked Lady	D	Less than 1m	F	bulbous plant, pink flowers on a 0.5 m stem before leaves appear
Artemisia aborescens	Wormwood	E	1 x 1	L	grey aromatic foliage, dense shrub
Buddleia davidii and cvs	Butterfly Bush	E	3 x 3	F	dark green velvety foliage, dense panicles of small flowers
Callistemon spp	Bottle Brush	E	various	F	many varieties of native shrubs and small trees, red flowers, bird attracting
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow in Summer	E	0.2 x 1	L	grey leafed groundcover, white flowers
Clematis aristata	Old Mans Beard	E	climber	F L	sprawling native climber, white flowers
Correa spp and cvs	Native Fuchsia	E	1.5 x 2	F L	several varieties of round shrubs, grey / green leaves, spring flowers
Eriostemon myoporoides	Native Daphne	E	1 x 1	F	low green native shrub, white flowers, aromatic leaves
Escallonia cvs	Escallonia	E	3 x 3	F L	large dense shrub, several flower colours, good for hedges

LOW WATER USE PLANTS *continued next page*



LOW WATER USE PLANTS *continued*

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = Evergreen D = Deciduous	Size height x width	Plant Features L = Leaves Fl = Flowers B = Bark	Comments
Eucalyptus blakelyi	Blakely's Red Gum	E	20 x 15	B	local native gum, smooth mottled bark
Eucalyptus leucoxylen	White Wood	E	20 x 15	B F	medium sized gum, several varieties with attractive flowers
Eucalyptus sideroxylon	Pink flowering Ironbark	E	25 x 15	F B	straight stemmed tree with black furrowed bark, white-red flowers
Euonymus cvs	Spindle Tree	E	4 x 3	L	large round shrub, glossy and often variegated leaves and stems
Euphorbia wolfenii	Venetian Spurge	E	1 x 1	L F	grey shrub, spectacular green flower bracts, potential weed
Gazania spp and cvs	Treasure Flower	E	Ground-cover	F	low bedding plant, golden daisy like flowers
Pelargonium spp and cvs	Geranium	E	Less than 1m	F	bright flowers, protected spots or annual plantings
Grevillea spp and cvs	Grevillea	E	various	L F	many varieties of native of groundcovers shrubs and trees
Gleditsia triacanthos cvs	Honey Locust	D	25 x 15	L F	upright tree, ascending branches, seeds in long curved pods
Hardenbergia violaceae	Happy Wanderer	E	0.5 x 2	F	sprawling native groundcover or climber, purple flowers
Juniperus spp	Juniper	E	various	L	various coniferous trees, shrubs and groundcovers

LOW WATER USE PLANTS *continued next page*

LOW WATER USE PLANTS *continued*

Species	Common Name	Foliage E = Evergreen D = Deciduous	Size height x width μ	Plant Features L = Leaves Fl = Flowers B = Bark	Comments
Lagerstroemia indica	Crepe Myrtle	D	to 6 metres	F B	small tree or pruned to a large shrub, bright summer flowers
Lavandula spp	Lavendar (various)	E	1 x 1	F	soft grey shrub, aromatic
Malus spp	Crab Apple (various)	D	5 x 4	F	many varieties, a range of flower and fruit types
Myoporum spp	Boobialla	E	various	F L	several varieties of shrubs and groundcovers
Nepeta cataria	Catnip	E	ground cover	F L	grey leafed groundcover, mauve flowers
Nerium oleander	Oleander	E	4 x 4	F	large dense shrub, bright summer flowers
Pyrus callieriana	Manchurian Pear	D	8 x 5	L	fast growing small tree, colourful autumn foliage
Rosa spp and cvs	Rose (various)	D	various	F	many varieties of shrubs, groundcovers and climbers
Sedum spectabile and cvs	Ice Plant	E	less than 1 m	F L	many varieties of succulent groundcovers
Stachys byzantine	Lambs Ears	E	less than 1 m	L	grey leafed groundcover or bedding plant
Westringia fruticosa	Coastal Rosemary	E	1 x 1	F L	grey foliage, white/purple flowers
Wisteria sinensis and cvs	Wisteria	D	climber	F	large woody climber, purple or white spring flowers



SECTION 4: OTHER USEFUL PLANT GROUPS

Annuals and Soft Wooded Perennials

Annuals include many vegetables and flowers that live for two years or less. In many cases, the region's cold winters restrict the biennials such as Snap Dragons to one season only. They can be grown from seed or seedlings and generally require good site preparation, prior to planting, and a good watering regime. Annuals can be used to good effect to fill space in a new garden as other perennial plantings develop.

The soft wooded perennials are non-woody plants which live for over two years. Many species may be termed herbaceous perennials. These tend to die back to the roots after the growing season, and re-shoot the following year.

The herbaceous perennials can play a major role in the summer/autumn however, they tend to be less popular than they deserve. They are relatively easy to maintain, requiring only adequate nutrients and moisture, and pruning after flowering. They can be cut back and mulched over in Autumn and established plants may be divided in winter for replanting in other locations.

In many cases, a wide range of species and cultivated varieties are available. Some useful and attractive soft wooded perennials include:

Yarrow (*Achillea cvs*), Peruvian Lilly (*Alstroemeria cvs*), Wormwood (*Artemesia spp*), Aster *spp*, Bellflower (*Campanula spp*), Larkspur (*Delphinium spp and cvs*), Euphorbia *sp*, Geranium *spp*, Geum *cvs*, Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila paniculate cvs*), Plantain Lilly (*Hosta spp and cvs*), Oriental Poppy (*Papaver orientale*), Cone Flower (*Rudbeckia spp*), Sage (*Salvia spp*) and *Sedum spp*.

Palms

The Palms are generally thought of as warm or tropical climate plants and yet a number of species perform well in our climate and can play a very useful role in the garden. By their nature, most Palms are single stemmed plants which do not branch. They have a compact and predictable crown of leaves (fronds) and a dense root system which does not spread far from the trunk. This means that the crown of the plant can have a prominent visual impact, while its base does not take up much valuable space.



The fronds of different palm species may be either fan shaped or feather shaped. In some species, the old leaves will fall from the crown by themselves (self pruning), while in others, the old brown fronds tend to droop from the crown, and need to be physically removed if this is desired. Some species produce a large number of seeds and these plants may be fairly messy as the seeds ripen and fall.



Chinese Windmill Palms - Machattie Park

Useful species include: American Cotton Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), Skyduster (*Washingtonia robusta*), Chinese Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) and Jelly Palm (*Butia capitata*).

Conifers

Many of the conifers, or pine trees, have adapted to a cool to cold climate and are therefore well suited to our region. Although some are deciduous, most conifers are evergreen and therefore they have become very popular as hedges and screening plants.

There are many species and cultivated varieties which vary dramatically in size, form and growth rate, ranging from prostrate groundcovers such as the Shore Juniper (*Juniperus conferta*) to compact dwarf varieties for rockeries, such as *Picea abies* 'Globosa Nana', to some of the worlds largest plants including the Californian Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). They have a wide range of uses including weed restricting groundcovers, formally shaped shrubs and topiary, specimen trees, hedges and avenues as well as primary production for timber, resin or pine nuts. The large range of choices makes careful plant selection very important.

There are a number of features common to many conifers that may be helpful to bear in mind when selecting plants for your garden. Many conifers are



pyramidal in shape and retain their foliage right to the ground. This means that they become quite wide at the base and may require regular clipping when planted adjacent to fences. They are also generally densely foliated, and tend to restrict the growth of adjacent plants and lawns. It is also generally true that fast growing upright conifers may become too large for small gardens.

A number of species can be useful garden additions including Juniper (*Juniperus spp and cvs*), Thuja *spp and cvs*, Cypress (*Cupressus spp and cvs*) and *Chamaecyparis spp and cvs*.

SECTION 5: LINEAR PLANTINGS

The placement of plants in rows is a widely used horticultural device for a range of specific functions. Plant selection, soil preparation and plant maintenance issues in such circumstances are worthy of particular consideration. We use linear plantings in a number of ways, as discussed below.

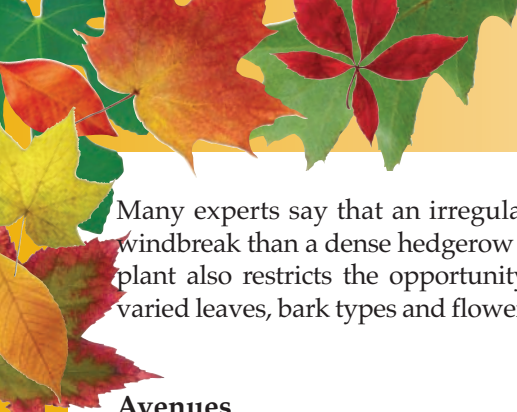
Hedges

The following general rules about hedges are fairly easy to follow.

- ♦ Choose species that do not grow much taller than the desired hedge height.
- ♦ Choose plants that are tolerant of regular clipping. Plants with smaller leaves are able to be shaped better than ones with larger leaves.
- ♦ Prior to planting, prepare the site well in accordance with the particular species requirements, including irrigation if necessary.
- ♦ Plant each plant only half as far apart as it would normally spread.
- ♦ Start light pruning to shape once the plants reach half the desired height.
- ♦ Shape the hedge wider at the base than the top to allow maximum sunlight to reach the lower leaves.

Windbreaks

Windbreaks are not just for the protection of farm animals. Any row or clump of trees or shrubs can create a complexity of biological and horticultural micro-climates. The windbreak can, for example, create the sheltered habitat in which to grow plants that are otherwise susceptible to our cool climate. It can also be used to protect paved entertainment areas, catch the winter sun within an area, or to protect a courtyard display of annuals and potted plants.



Many experts say that an irregular row of plantings can create a more effective windbreak than a dense hedgerow or avenue of one species. A row of all the same plant also restricts the opportunity to provide a wide range of habitats through varied leaves, bark types and flowering times for a diverse suite of living organisms.

Avenues

A large hedge becomes an avenue when the plants are spaced far enough apart to show their natural shape. They usually border both sides of a carriageway. The avenue can be a stately and dramatic horticultural device, but they are not particularly common in Bathurst today.

The Morrisset Street Plane Trees are surely the most impressive avenue plantings growing in Bathurst, along with the Perthville approach Poplars and the Kings Parade Cedars. Avenues may take a long time to achieve their full visual impact

Street Trees

The use of street trees has an enormous impact on a neighbourhood. Issues of sun and shade, aesthetics, drainage, footpath and road maintenance, powerlines and other services, fruit drop and traffic visibility are just some of the things that must be carefully considered when choosing the right street tree. Because of this, it is recommended that street tree planting are undertaken only by your local council authority.



Poplar Trees - Perthville Road





SECTION 6: NATIVE GARDENS

Values of planting natives

Native plants come in all shapes & sizes and play a number of important roles in Australia. They provide food and shelter for native birds and animals, stabilise our soils and waterways, are tolerant of our extreme climatic conditions and require very little water to thrive, compared to most exotic plant species. As well, native plants can be attractive specimens in your garden and in streets and parks.

The planting of native plants helps to maintain and protect the distinctive Australian landscape. They can also help to link pockets of native vegetation that have become isolated by residential and rural development and play a vital role in maintaining the quality of Australia's land and water resources.

Woodland

The dominant vegetation type of the Bathurst area is formally known as White Box/Yellow Box/Blakely's Red Gum Woodland. This assemblage of trees, shrubs, grasses, herbs and forbs has recently been listed as an Endangered Ecological Community which means that we need to take great care of the few remaining patches that still exist. The best publicly accessible example of the Woodland community in the Bathurst area is found in portions of the Boundary Rd Reserve, just 3 kms west of the CBD. The Reserve has a 4 km walking track and is well worth a visit.



Native Garden - Bathurst Information & Neighbourhood Centre



Provenance

Native plants have a greater chance of success if they have been grown from the same plants that already occur naturally within the area. They also tend to be more successful when planted as small seedlings called tubestock. When purchasing native plants, check the availability of local provenance species.

Wildlife corridors

On rural blocks and in some larger parks, corridors of native plants can provide important links for animals to move around. Experts recommend that the creation and protection of wildlife corridors should be encouraged to enable the linking of isolated patches of existing native vegetation, and that they should be at least 25 metres wide.

Riparian Corridors

Riparian vegetation is the term used for our native vegetation along creek and river banks. Riparian corridors are of great importance in reducing erosion, maintaining water quality and providing habitat for native animals. Unfortunately, many non-native plants (including Willows, Blackberry and Privet) in these “riparian” areas are rapidly spread by water and have become major weeds.



Riparian Vegetation - Lower Hawthornden Creek

Establishment and Care

There is a general misunderstanding that natives need no care. In fact, care with site preparation and establishment in the first few years is important for many species. Adequate protection from frosts and sufficient water should be considered over the establishment period. Fertilisers should be specifically formulated for natives as many species are intolerant of Phosphorus. In some species, pruning is beneficial in the early years to develop a sturdy structure and some species flower better if they are pruned annually after flowering.



SECTION 7: WATERWISE GARDENING

An increased national focus on water usage has led to an awareness that water conservation is a very important issue in garden design and maintenance.

Australia is the driest inhabited continent in the world and in our region, the average evaporation rate per year (water loss through climatic factors) is often higher than the average rainfall received. Water is a finite resource and the careful management and use of it is the responsibility of every one.

Below are a number of simple hints that can help you to maintain a healthy garden and significantly reduce water use and your water bill at the same time.



Rose hips - Miss Traill's House

- ♦ Mulch the garden with either organic or inorganic materials
- ♦ Group plants according to their water requirements
- ♦ Install irrigation systems fitted with a timing device
- ♦ Consider installing a rain water tank
- ♦ Reduce the amount of lawn in your garden
- ♦ Reduce your use of annuals in favour of perennials, shrubs and groundcovers
- ♦ Control weeds
- ♦ Repair leaking taps
- ♦ Water during the cooler hours of the day, particularly early morning
- ♦ Don't water during windy conditions





SECTION 8: WEEDS

Weeds come in many shapes and forms and the responsibility to control them lies with us all. Basically any plant that becomes established and spreads to areas where it is not wanted can be described as a weed, but some cause more problems than others.

Weeds by nature are generally aggressive competitors and if left unchecked, can often overtake and remove the beneficial vegetation within the area.

Noxious weeds are those which have been gazetted by the State Government because of the threat that they pose to agriculture, people or the environment. The management or eradication of noxious weeds is a mandatory requirement of all land owners. In our region the Upper Macquarie County Council is the authority responsible for advice on the management of noxious weeds.

Many other plants in addition to noxious weeds may cause problems and as such, they should be removed or carefully managed as discussed below.

Trees

In Bathurst, all trees greater than 4 metres high and with a branch spread of over 3 metres wide are protected under Council's Tree Preservation Order. However each year, approval is granted for the removal of many trees because they are located in unsuitable places. In many cases these trees are not intentionally planted, but have grown up as suckers or seedlings and were never weeded out. Problem locations include fence-lines and behind sheds and garages where the lawn mower cannot reach.

A number of common trees are not particularly suitable for home gardens. Many of the Eucalypts for example are simply too large for small gardens and tend to be quite messy due to leaf, bark and insect debris. Large conifers can also be a problem as they may become very dense and prevent other plants in the vicinity from thriving. Willows (*Salix spp*) and Poplars (*Populus spp*) are two groups of exotic trees that can often cause problems. These trees use a lot of water and are often accused of disrupting sewage and stormwater systems. They also tend to produce suckers from damaged roots and can become very invasive along rivers and creeks.



Shrubs

A number of exotic shrubs that produce fleshy fruit or berries may be widely dispersed into bushland by birds. These species should be avoided where possible, or their fruits removed before they ripen. They include Privet (*Ligustrum spp*), Cotoneaster, Hawthorn (*Crataegus spp*), Holly (*Ilex spp*), Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*).

Climbers

These plants have various mechanisms of attaching themselves to trees, fences and walls. Some are twiners while others have tendrils that penetrate vertical surfaces. Those with tendrils including Ivy (*Hedera spp*), Cats Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) and Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus spp*) can be vigorous climbers which may mark or damage bricks or woodwork. Ivy can sometimes become a weed in bushland and creek-lines and is readily dispersed by birds or water. All of the large climbers have the potential to strangle trees and shrubs if left unchecked.

Groundcovers and Annuals

A number of ornamental groundcovers can become a problem in your garden and also have the potential to escape and cause problems in other areas. Some, such as Californian Poppy (*Eschscholtzia cvs*) are spread by seed, while others like Periwinkle (*Vinca spp*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) have invasive running stems.



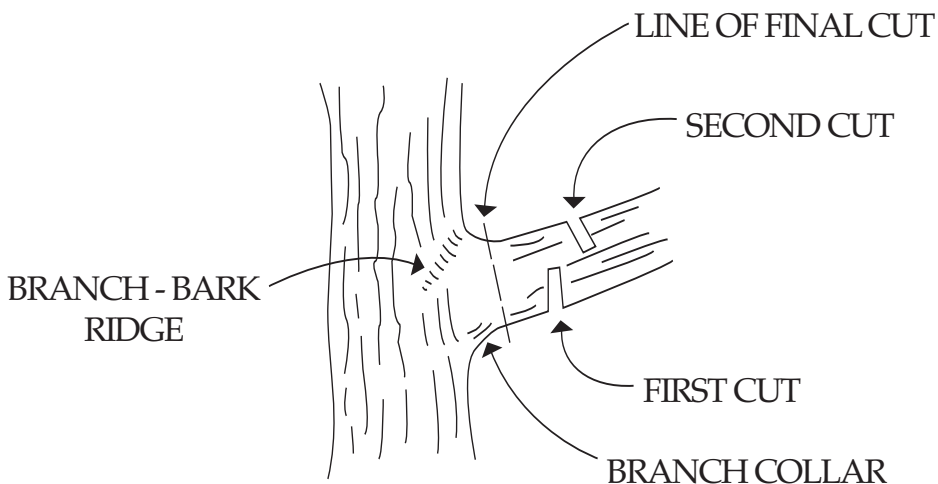
Privet Hedge - Vittoria Street

SECTION 9: GARDENING TIPS

Pruning techniques

Pruning may be carried out for a wide range of purposes. These may include flower or fruit promotion, plant shaping or the removal of damaged or unwanted growth. Always consider why a plant needs to be pruned before commencing the job. Some general pointers may be useful for most applications however it is worth researching growth habit, flowering characteristics and specific pruning recommendations for particular species before commencing the pruning job.

THE THREE CUT METHOD



from "The Tree Booklet"
Dubbo City Council

Only three tools are required for most pruning work in home gardens: secateurs, shears and a small pruning saw. These should be kept clean and sharp to ensure neat pruning cuts and to minimise the risk of spreading pests and diseases.



Sheers should only be used where the purpose is to remove only the tips of stems and foliage and where the material to be cut is no more than a few millimetres thick. This will promote bushy growth and a dense structure.

Secateurs can be used for precise cuts of material up to about 20 millimetres in diameter. For pruning larger material, use the pruning saw. For safety reasons, work requiring powered equipment such as chain saws should only be carried out by suitably experienced operators.

When pruning, always aim to cut just above a leaf node or branch as new growth emerges from these areas of the plant. Untidy cuts which leave a stump or stem above the leaf node or branch may encourage pests or diseases.

The three cut method (see diagram) should be used when using the pruning saw to remove unwanted branches. This technique minimises the risk of bark stripping and encourages the pruning scar to heal.

Tree roots

Tree roots are the most important part of a healthy specimen, and yet they are generally un-noticed unless they are causing problems. It is important to remember that a tree's roots often extend well past the extent of the foliage and that most of the feeding and moisture collecting roots are very fine fibres quite close to the surface.

Tree roots do not recognise the fences and boundaries between properties. The roots of your tree may affect your neighbour.

Damage to tree roots can injure or kill a tree in a number of ways. The tree's stability may be weakened, its ability to collect food and moisture can be restricted and bacterial or fungal infections may develop.

In some species, damage to the roots can also cause the tree to develop suckering growth which uses nutrients that would otherwise be used by the tree itself. Root suckers can also create a dense thicket of stems at the base of the tree which may reduce the tree's appearance.

Some trees are known to have particularly extensive root systems and may damage sewer and water pipes and even the footings and foundations of buildings.



Helpful hints

The following general hints can greatly assist in the establishment and care of your garden.

Remember: plants with fruit that is palatable to birds will travel.

Avoid any soil disturbance near to a tree as this may threaten the tree's survival. In many cases, the tree will take several years to die. Steps can be taken to try to help trees through the recovery process if root disturbance is unavoidable.

Don't allow young trees to become established along fence-lines or behind the shed. These trees often end up being destructive and expensive.

Consider a tree's mature size before you plant it. Eucalypts and various pine trees make up the vast majority of trees that are removed from Bathurst's gardens.

Dedicate at least one corner of your garden as a "wild corner". Use plants that you can ignore and allow the spot to be thick and undisturbed. All sorts of living things may use this space. It's a great contribution to biodiversity.

Always try to choose a plant for a spot rather than trying to find the spot for an impulse purchase.

Remember that plants only have one botanical name, but may have several common names. Description of a plant's characteristics is only accurate when referred to by its botanical name.

Using mowers and brush cutters can inadvertently damage tree trunks. Take great care when operating machinery near the base of trees.



Kurrajong



Dogwood



Liquidambar



Strawberry Tree



SECTION 10: CONTACTS

Australian Plant Society
www.austplants-nsw.org.au

Bathurst Regional Council
www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au
Phone 6333 6111

Bathurst Gardeners Club
PO Box 1049
Bathurst NSW 2795

Boundary Rd Reserve Landcare Group
PO Box 1469
Bathurst NSW 2795

Central Tablelands District Landcare Committee
PO Box 659
Bathurst NSW 2795

Central West Catchment Management Authority
www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au
Phone 6340 7800

Greening Bathurst
PO Box 1469
Bathurst NSW 2795

Macquarie Rivercare
PO Box 618
Bathurst NSW 2795

Upper Macquarie County Council
PO Box 703
Bathurst NSW 2795
Phone 6333 1375