

PLANTS AND GROWING NOTES FOR COASTAL AREAS OF THE CENTRAL COAST

Angophora hispida – Large shrub or small tree to 5m, clusters of attractive red buds opening to large white flowers late spring and summer followed by ribbed cup-shaped fruits. Full sun, well-drained soil, attracts nectar feeding birds, colourful beetles and other insects. A plant with many features but not often seen in nurseries.

Brisbane Water National Park

Bauera rubioides, 1m high, Dog Rose, moist spot in semi shade, Bright pink flowers in spring & summer. Seen growing in damp areas in heathland around the Central Coast

Acacia ulicifolia – 1.5m, common name Prickly Moses cream globular flowers autumn and winter. Kincumba Mountain & Brisbane Water National Park

Banksia ericifolia – shrub or small tree 2-6m, large orange flower spikes autumn and winter, full sun/semi shade, tolerates poor drainage but does prefer good drainage, resist heavy pruning – plant has no lignotuber, important plant for providing nectar to a wide range of bird species, mammals and insects, fruits provide a seed source for cockatoos. Widespread on the coast and ranges. Good specimens can be seen in the Warrah Trig area

Banksia integrifolia – tree 4–10m, yellow bottle-brush flowers, autumn will spot flower for most of the year, flowers followed by woody fruits, resistant to salt spray, most aspects, well-drained soil. Coastal areas of the Central Coast

Banksia Robur Swamp Banksia – 2m, blue-green buds opening to yellow/green brushes when mature, summer through to winter. Tolerates poor drainage, wet areas. Coastal areas of the Central Coast

Banksia serrata Old Man or Saw Banksia, to 15m, serrated leaves, large yellow/brown flowers in summer, well-drained moist sandy soils, attracts nectar feeding birds, seed eating birds, butterflies and other insects, black cockatoos feed on developing cones. Coastal areas of the Central Coast

Banksia spinulosa – Hairpin Banksia, 2m, large golden cylindrical flower spikes autumn and winter, sun/light shade. Well-drained, moist, clay/loam, sand/loam, good food source for bees, nectar and seed feeding birds and mammals. Widespread in heath, forests and woodland eastern NSW.

Callistemon citrinus – 1-3m high, red bottlebrush flowers in spring & autumn, moist spot. Prune after flowering - attracts bees and small birds. Central Coast National Parks.

Clematis aristata – Old Man's Beard, vigorous twining climber, masses of star like, white flowers in spring. Seen growing up trees around the Central Coast particularly around Wyrabalong South National Park.

Clematis glycinoides – Old Man's Beard, vigorous twining climber, similar to *C. aristata* but leaves lack teeth. Masses of star-like flowers in spring. Seen growing up trees around the Central Coast particularly around Wyrabalong South National Park.

Correa alba – 1.5m, open white flowers in winter, hardy & resistant to salt spray, well-drained spot with cool root run. Good hedging plant. Various locations around the Central Coast particularly near beach suburbs

Correa reflexa – 2m high, red, sometimes yellow or green, bell-shaped flowers May to November and intermittently through the year. Well drained, semi shade, produces nectar attracting honey eating birds. Many hybrids and cultivars - available in nurseries. Occurs naturally in several locations around the Central Coast.

Crowea saligna – 1m high – lge. Pink wax flowers winter and spring, prefers semi shade, some morning sun. Seen in Bouddi National Park

Elaeocarpus reticulatus Blueberry Ash – tree to 15m, white, sometimes pink, fringed bell-shaped flowers in spring followed by blue berries, sun, semi/shade, moist gullies, rocky ridge outcrops, sandy coastal scrub. Attracts Regent Bower Bird that collect them for their blue colour and other fruit eating birds – Wonga Pigeons, Crimson Rosellas, Figbirds, White Headed Pigeons, and Olive-Backed Orioles. Eastern NSW, Queensland, Victoria & Tasmania

Epacris longiflora – 1.5m, Gosford floral emblem, fuchsia like red flowers with white tips in winter and spring, moist rocky ground, semi-shade, doesn't tolerate root disturbance, provides nectar for honey eater birds, generally available in nurseries. Common in moist sandstone gullies of the NSW Central Coast.

Eriostemon australasius – 1-2m high – pink flowers late winter and spring. Part shade/sun. Needs good drainage with cool root run and some shade. Can be found in the bush around the Central Coast. Available in nurseries.

Goodenia ovata – Prostrate or upright to 1.5m high, yellow flowers all year with peak from October to March. Moist/well drained – semi shade. Central Coast areas including Kincumba Mountain.

Grevillea buxifolia – 1-2m high, large pink/grey spider flowers in late winter and spring, well-drained soil, sunny or semi shaded position. Eastern NSW – Central Coast National Parks.

Grevillea sericea – 1.5m high – pink spider flowers most of the year. Full sun, semi shade, good drainage. Attracts native bees. Readily available in nurseries. Found in the bush around the Central Coast.

Grevillea shiressii – 3m, Translucent, pale purple or greenish flowers with purple-brown markings winter to December. Moist, semi shade – attracts honeyeater birds. Listed as 'vulnerable' in the wild. Restricted to the Moonee Creek and Mullet Creek areas of the Central Coast.

Grevillea speciosa – 2m high, Red spider flowers late winter and spring, well-drained, sun/ partial shade. Attracts small nectar feeding birds – Found in many locations around the Central Coast.

Hakea teretifolia – 2m, white flowers along the stems from September to February followed by dagger shaped woody fruits, prickly leaves with needle-like points, excellent for small birds, frost & drought tolerant, most soils. East coast of NSW, widespread in Central Coast National Parks.

Hardenbergia violacea – may climb, trail or have a shrubby habit, purple flowers in winter and spring, pink & white forms also available, well-drained, sun or semi shade, most soils, prune after flowering. Eastern Australia & southern coast of Victoria & South Australia, widespread on the Central Coast.

Hibbertia dentata – twining climber – large yellow flowers late winter and spring. Well-drained but moist spot in semi shade. Most national parks around the Central Coast including Kincumba Mountain.

Hibbertia scandens – fast growing twiner – large yellow flowers most of the year followed by red fruits. Full sun or partial shade, attracts fruit eating birds. Grows naturally along the coastal fringe.

Indigofera australis - 2m, sprays of purple pea flowers in spring. Moist spot, well-drained, semi shade. Regular tip pruning promotes bushy growth. Widespread around the Central Coast

Kennedia rubicunda – Dusky Coral Pea, twining sometimes prostrate, Lge dark red pea flowers winter & spring. Widespread around the Central Coast, including Kincumba Mountain

Lambertia formosa - 3m high, red flowers most of the year, common name Mountain Devil, fruits resemble devil with horn, hardy in most aspects. Attracts honey eater birds, good garden plant. Many National Parks around the Central coast.

Leptospermum polygalifolium – 1–4m high, white flowers in profusion in late winter and early spring, sun, semi shade, most soils, moist well-drained soil, drought resistant, attracts bees, butterflies and other insects. Coastal areas of NSW including the Central Coast

Melaleuca nodosa – 6m, globular clusters of creamy/yellow flowers in spring and summer, paper bark, hardy, all soils, tolerates poor moisture, sun, resistant to salt spray. Coastal areas of NSW including the Central Coast – can be seen at Wyrabalong Sth National Park.

Melaleuca thymifolia – 1m, pink/mauve flowers in summer. Full sun /semi shade, most soils, enjoys damp conditions. Coastal areas of South Queensland and NSW including the Central Coast.

Ozothamnus diosmifolius – Rice flower, 2m, clusters of white flowers, sometimes pink, in spring and summer, highly aromatic foliage, hardy in sun or semi shade, most soils. Good cut flower. Regular pruning required. Many cultivars seen in nurseries. Grows in coastal forests, grows in Kincumba Mountain Reserve.

Pimelea linifolia – 60cm, white or pink flowers for most of the year, sun – semi shade, well-drained soil, needs regular pruning to promote branching. Distribution area east coast Australia. Widespread in National Parks on the Central Coast.

Pandorea pandorana - vigorous climber, cascades of white flowers with pink throats in spring, common name Wonga Wonga Vine. It can be seen climbing up the trees in the bush and along roadsides around the Central Coast.

Philothea myoporoides - 1-2m high, star-like flowers in spring. Very hardy, tolerates shade or sun and will take hard pruning after flowering. East coast of NSW & Victoria

Prostanthera askania – 1–2m, Pale mauve flowers late winter to December. Endangered plant, restricted to area from Gosford to Ourimbah and Strickland Forest. Not likely to be seen in nurseries. Sometimes on sale at APS Central Coast meetings.

Prostanthera incisa - 1-3m high, violet coloured flowers cover the bush in spring, highly aromatic foliage especially when wet with rain, local plant with a distribution area eastern NSW.

Tetratea thymifolia – 1m, deep pink flowers from June to November, well-drained moist, semi-shade, tolerates heavy shade. NSW coast & ranges, Queensland & Victoria.

Westringia fruticosa Coastal Rosemary – 2m, white flowers for most of the year, hardy, all soils and situations, resistant to salt spray, excellent hedging plant.

Zieria smithii - 1.5m, strongly fragrant foliage, white flowers in spring, shade/semi shade. Widespread on the Queensland & NSW coast & ranges – can be seen growing in the Brisbane Water and South Wyrribalong National Parks.

Recommended –

Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney by Les Robinson

Native Plants of the Sydney Region by Alan Fairley & Philip Moore