

Should we grow more fruit

Jan Douglas

It seems to me that when we plan and plant our ornamental or habitat native gardens, and when we talk about them to each other, we focus mostly on the flowers.

If we are interested in bush foods, then fruits as well as leaves and flowers become a focus.

But I wonder whether most of us may be missing an opportunity for more colour, interest and habitat-value because we don't think enough about fruit.

What do you think? Have you chosen native plants for your garden because of their fruit? Do you see fruit of native plants as a common feature in other people's native gardens? What are your favourites?

Fruit is a very wide term. If we use it to mean anything that holds seeds, then it includes hard pods like those on **Brachychitons** and **Wattles** and many of the pea plants, and other seed-holding structures like **Casuarinas** have. Many have very attractive shapes and subtle colours. It also includes **Banksia** cones, and cones of **Isopogon** and **Petrophile**.

Then there are the soft fruits, like **Davidson Plums**, **Lilly-pillies** and **Finger Limes**.

Some of the most colourful are the **berries**, and many of these have the advantage of belonging to quite small plants, so we can fit more of them into our gardens! Below are a few berry photos from our garden and other fruit photos taken in various places.



Dianella sp. - Flax Lily



Austromyrtus dulcis - Midgen Berry *Callicarpa pedunculata* – Velvet Leaf



Casuarina sp Royal N. P.



Hakea laurina - Pincushion Hakea
In cultivation, NSW South Coast



Eucalyptus preissiana – Bell-fruited Mallee Kings Park, WA





***Persoonia sp* Geebung
Royal National Park**



***Telopea speciosissima*
NSW Waratah
Blue Mountains**



***Pittosporum revolutum*
Hairy Pittosporum NSW
South Coast**