

Plant of the Month

a compilation



AussieGreenThumb.com

Plant of the Month

Are you looking for a good plant to grow in your garden? Is there a bare spot that just needs to be filled? Well, here is a long list of different plants that you might like to try as you aim to grow a better garden.

Each month at AussieGreenThumb.com I feature a different plant. I focus on featuring Australian native plants because I believe they are the best choice for Australian gardeners, in particular beginner gardeners because they are used to our conditions.

Obviously some varieties are better suited to certain area's of Australia. Being a West Aussie there are indeed more Western Australian varieties but I am confident you will find a plant variety that you can try in your garden anywhere in Australia within this compilation of my previous Plant of the Month entries.

The idea behind this compilation is to give you a very quick snapshot of some of the native possibilities that you can use in your garden. It is not an exhaustive list and each species is only covered briefly however I believe it paints a picture of what you can do with Australian native plants.



Green Machine Kangaroo Paw

Genus: *Anigozanthos*

Species: *viridis*

Common Name: Green Machine Kangaroo Paw

Flower Colour: Green

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Strap Leaf/Grass

Flowering: Summer & Spring



What is great about this variety is the green flower is a much lighter green colour than the stems. The best use I have seen for this variety is when placed between two other varieties of *Anigozanthos* or Kangaroo Paw. For example I once saw a patch of Red and Green Kangaroo paws clumped together, surrounded by this variety and then another, smaller variety with yellow flowers. The light green flowers of the *viridis* really helped to create an amazing visual contrast between the Red & Green and Yellow flowering varieties.

The *Anigozanthos viridis* prefers positions which receive full sun but will survive in part shade and will also survive in wetter soils than many other Kangaroo Paws. Foliage will grow to roughly 0.3m in height with flower stems up to 1m.

Yellow Gem Kangaroo Paw

Genus: Anigozanthos

Species: N/A (Not a naturally occurring species)

Common Name: Yellow Gem Kangaroo Paw

Flower Colour: Yellow

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Strap Leaf/Grass

Flowering: Summer & Spring

According to Lullfitz.com.au this variety is “a hybrid kangaroo paw bred by Mr S Haynes and released in the early 1970’s”. I myself have not grown this variety but am recommending it based on the flower. I’m a sucker for a beautiful flower and this one sure looks a treat.

The foliage of the Yellow Gem Kangaroo Paw usually grows to about 0.7m with flowering stems growing up to 2m in height. This is very tall for a Kangaroo Paw! This Kangaroo Paw will grow best in a position which receives full sun. This variety is also a really good bird attracting species so expect to attract some local fauna if you do indeed choose to give this variety a chance in your garden.



Orange Gem Kangaroo Paw

Genus: *Anigozanthos*

Species: *flavidus*

Common Name: Orange Gem Kangaroo Paw

Flower Colour: Orange/Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Strap Leaf/Grass

Flowering: Summer & Spring

The *Anigozanthos flavidus* actually comes in a few different sub-species but the best sub-species boats beautiful orangey red flowers. This variety is one of the smaller varieties of Kangaroo Paw, normally growing no higher than 50cm

This variety makes for an absolutely fantastic border plant and also attracts birds, in particular the honey eater. I have grown this variety and have always been very happy with the results. This variety prefers a position of full sun but will also handle limited shade in the summer months. Mostly flowers in Spring but I have had it flower right into summer on a few occasions.



Red and Green Kangaroo Paw

Genus: *Anigozanthos*

Species: *manglesii*

Common Name: Red & Green Kangaroo Paw

Flower Colour: Red & Green

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Strap Leaf/Grass

Flowering: Spring & Winter



The *Anigozanthos manglesii* is my favourite Kangaroo Paw and is happiest in a position that receives full sun. When in good conditions this variety really thrives and will grow to have flowering stems up to 1 metre in height. This plant will usually last for a few flowering seasons, normally up to 3 or 4, but is not a bad idea to replace after the 2nd flowering season.

The bold red and green coloured flower really helps it stand out when mixed with other varieties. I never miss this flower when walking past because it just stands out really strongly. A tip with any Kangaroo Paw is to remove the stems after flowering as this promotes new growth and speeds up the next batch of flowers.

Pimelea *spectabilis*

Genus: Pimelea

Species: *spectabilis*

Common Name: No settled common name

Flower Colour: Pink

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Winter – Spring



This variety of Pimelea is truly defined by its flower. The flower consists of an outer halo of mostly white flowers circling an inner white cluster with a deep pink centre. The leaves of the spectabilis are quite pointy and indeed prickly but this should not deter you from planting this fantastic shrub. The Pimelea *spectabilis* likes a sunny to part shade position in the garden and prefers soil with good drainage.

The Pimelea *spectabilis* is endemic to Western Australia, particularly found along the Swan River. It will generally grow in most temperate climates but is obviously best grown in the southern parts of Western Australia.

Rose Banjine Pimelea

Genus: Pimelea

Species: *rosea*

Common Name: Rose Banjine

Flower Colour: Pink

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Winter – Spring



The *Pimelea rosea* has small flowers which cluster together at the end of the stem creating a larger, more striking presentation. The *Pimelea rosea* flowers are a mix of pink and white, making an almost purple colour when looking from a distance. The *Pimelea rosea* also generally grows slightly smaller than other *Pimelea* varieties, at most reaching roughly 1m in height.

Pimelea rosea likes a sunny to part shade position and a soil with good drainage. Like the other varieties it does grow best in temperate or cool climates along the coast but over recent years there have been experiments with more tropical friendly varieties to make the *Pimelea rosea* more tropical friendly.

Qualup Bell Pimelea

Genus: Pimelea

Species: *physodes*

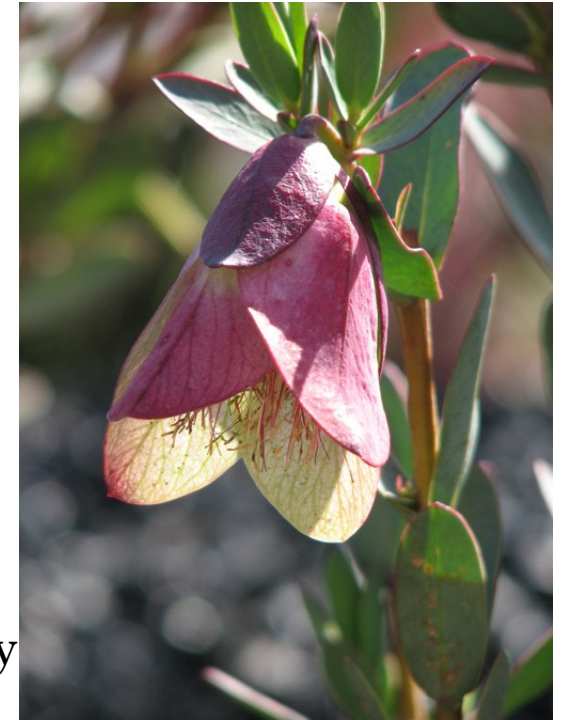
Common Name: Qualup Bell

Flower Colour: Yellow

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Winter



Often within plant varieties there are only subtle differences between two different kinds. That is not really the case in this instance, especially when comparing flowers. Instead of small, clustering flowers common in other Pimelea, the *physodes* forms large, bell-like flowers which make it an absolutely beautiful Australian Native flower for flower arrangements.

The Pimelea *physodes* variety is a little more susceptible to sun than other Pimelea and so it prefers a partly shady position. It also likes a well drained soil and grows best along the West Australian southern coast. However many hybrids are being released which is helping this beautiful variety to be more readily available Australia wide.

Pink Rice Flower

Genus: *Pimelea*

Species: *ferruginea*

Common Name: Pink Rice Flower

Flower Colour: Pink

Foliage Colour: Dark Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Spring

Pimelea ferruginea prefers a coastal climate but they have been known to succeed inland. What gives this *Pimelea* its beauty is the way the flowers cluster together at the end of the stem. The individual flowers themselves are quite small but because they cluster together (like the *Hydrangea*) they make a much larger statement and really stand out against the dark green foliage.

Pimelea ferruginea is only a small shrub growing about 1m high and between 1 and 2 metre's wide. *Pimelea ferruginea* prefers a well draining soil and a sunny to part shade position. The best way to reproduce *Pimelea ferruginea* is from cuttings with the best and most successful cuttings being taken from new growth.



Broad Leafed Paperbark

Genus: *Melaleuca*

Species: *viridiflora*

Common Name: Broad Leafed Paperbark

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Small tree to 5m

Flowering: Autumn

The *viridiflora* is the *Melaleuca* variety that most looks like, and is confused with, Bottle Brushes of the *Callistemon* genus. The distinctive red flower is almost identical to a Bottle Brush flower however the main give away that this is a *Melaleuca* is the bark, which is much whiter than Bottle Brush trees.



Melaleuca viridiflora is a tree variety which grows to about 5m high and around about 2m wide. It is a great bird attracter and prefers full sun but can handle part shade.

Grey Honey Myrtle

Genus: *Melaleuca*

Species: *incana*

Common Name: Grey Honey Myrtle

Flower Colour: Yellow and/or white

Foliage Colour: Grey

Growth Habit: Shrub to 2m

Flowering: Spring



The *incana* is shrub variety of *Melaleuca* and it has the most wonderful little yellow flowers, though a white flowered version exists as well.

The *Melaleuca incana* is native to Western Australia but can handle most climates and can handle sandy, gravel or clay soils. It definitely prefers more sun to shade, but can handle part shade. Also looks fantastic planted with other *Melaleuca* varieties. Try mixing and matching a few to get the desired look for your garden.

Silver Leaved Paperbark

Genus: *Melaleuca*

Species: *argentea*

Common Name: Silver Leaved Paperbark

Flower Colour: White

Foliage Colour: Silver

Growth Habit: Small Tree

Flowering: Spring & Winter



The *Melaleuca argentea* is one of the tree like varieties in the *Melaleuca* family. What makes this variety special to me is the contrast it provides when around other *Melaleuca* varieties, given its white flowers (with a tinge of yellow and cream) and silver foliage.

This variety will grow from about 5m to around 7m in height and can function as a fantastic feature tree in any garden. For best results plant in full sun and make sure the soil drains well. I highly doubt you will not regret planting this Australian Native Plant if you are looking for a tall feature tree for your garden.

Apricot Delight

Genus: *Melaleuca*

Species: *fulgens*

Common Name: Apricot Delight

Flower Colour: Orange

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 2m

Flowering: Spring

The *Melaleuca fulgens* is more of a shrub like *Melaleuca*, though it can grow rather tall and bushy. It can handle most shade situations, from full sun to full shade, and can also survive quite well in clay soils.



In spring it has the most delightful little Bottle Brush like apricot flowers. One thing I really like about this variety of Australian Native Plant is that it is easily shaped. If planted side by side with either other *fulgens* or mixed with other shrub like varieties it can become a fantastic hedge that you can trim to suit your desire.

A great choice of plant!

Verticordia *dichroma*

Genus: Verticordia

Species: *dichroma*

Common Name: N/A

Flower Colour: Orange/Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Spring



Verticordia dichroma is a fantastic variety of Verticordia that has a really striking flower. The red/orange flowers really stand out when planted amongst other plants, in particular other Verticordia varieties. When in flower this Verticordia would have to be close to my favourite, it just looks absolutely divine.

The *dichroma* grows to approximately 1m high though some argue that it can grow much higher (up to 3m) and spreads out over a 1-2m diameter. It grows best in relatively sandy soils but has been known to do well in most soils. The *Verticordia dichroma* is endemic to Western Australia and it does definitely grow best in WA but success can generally be found in most temperate climates.

Painted Feather Flower

Genus: *Verticordia*

Species: *picta*

Common Name: Painted Feather Flower

Flower Colour: Pink or white

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Spring, Summer



Another variety of the beautiful *Verticordia* species. The *picta* very much prefers full sun positions and it is well worth planting out in the open because when it is in flower it looks great and will handle these conditions well. The *picta* grows best in sandy or clay soils in a temperate climate and like almost all other species of *Verticordia* is native to Western Australia.

The *picta* usually flowers in Spring and Summer and the flowers often darken as they get older, starting out quite a light pink (or even white) and then darkening to a beautiful, deeper pink. The *picta*, like most *Verticordia*'s, is best planted in seedling or small shrub form as they germinate notoriously slowly from seed. Cuttings from current seasons growth can work but this is less successful, definitely requiring root promoting hormone for any success.

Rapier Feather Flower

Genus: Verticordia

Species: mitchelliana

Common Name: Rapier Feather Flower

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Grey

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Spring, Summer



This variety of Verticordia really does have a real vibrant red colour. The *Verticordia mitchelliana* is a low spreading shrub that will grow to about 1 metre high and about 1-2 metres wide. The *mitchelliana* prefers positions that receive full sun but can handle periods of part or filtered shade.

This variety of Verticordia can be good to plant as a hedge. As mentioned above, it grows to about 1 metre high which can be a good height for a hedge and because it spreads wide, you only need to plant 3-4 of the variety to get a good sized hedge. Perhaps consider planting a variety of Verticordia with similar growth patterns (or perhaps a mixed variety of growth patterns) to make your hedge look extra especially good.

Woolly Feather Flower

Genus: *Verticordia*

Species: *monadelpha*

Common Name: Woolly Feather Flower

Flower Colour: Pink

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 50cm

Flowering: Spring, Summer



The *Verticordia monadelpha* has the most delightful little pink flowers which bunch together to form beautiful clumps. When in full flower this *Verticordia* really stands out. As a smaller shrub it can work really well planted around a central specimen plant. It also works very well planted in front of a slightly larger growing shrub to help cover a wall or other various objects you might be trying to hide.

This *Verticordia* is a pretty hardy little plant that prefers to grow in sandy or gravel based soils. It is endemic to Western Australia and grows best on the West Coast but there has been growing success by gardeners who have started to plant it on the East Coast. The *Verticordia monadelpha* is increasingly being used as part of formal floral decorations. A great choice for your garden.

Genus: *Adenanthos*

Species: *cuneatus*

Common Name: Coral Drift

Flower Colour: Purple

Foliage Colour: Grey

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Spring, Summer, Autumn



The *cuneatus* variety of *Adenanthos* is native to the South West of Western Australia. It has a fantastic growth habit, growing to about 1.5m wide. The *cuneatus* responds very well to pruning at the end of the flowering season and makes a good hedge plant or space filler. When covered in flower it is absolutely stunning.

Another great positive is that the *cuneatus* is a bird attracting Australian Native Plant. It prefers a cool to temperate climate and full sun to part shade. Like so many native plants it prefers a soil with good drainage.

The *Adenanthos cuneatus* is also available in a ground cover variety.

Basket Flower

Genus: *Adenanthos*

Species: *obovatus*

Common Name: Basket Flower

Flower Colour: Orange

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Spring, Winter



What captivates me about this variety of *Adenanthos* is the beautiful mix of the orange flowers and the green leaves. I haven't grown this variety myself but from all reports it is a fantastic native endemic to Western Australia but which will tolerate most temperate and perhaps cool climates

Adenanthos obovatus will grow to about 1 to 1.5m in height and has wonderful little flowers, flowering mostly in winter and spring. Prefers sand or gravel or loam soil and grows best when planted in full sun or part shade environment.

Silver Streak or Albany Woolly Bush

Genus: *Adenanthos*

Species: *sericeus*

Common Name: Albany Woolly Bush or Silver Streak

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Grey-Green

Growth Habit: Shrub 3m+

Flowering: Spring, Summer, Autumn

The *Adenanthos sericeus* is an extremely hardy plant that has the most beautiful and soft grey-green leaves with a growth habit up to 3m.

The Albany Woolly Bush is best known for its suitability to be used as an Australian Native Christmas Tree. The fact it will also grow in a large pot means you could grow one yourself and use it each year with little to no fuss. The grey-green leaves give it a colour that almost 'hints' at being snow covered (which Australians still seem to like the idea of, even though many of us have never seen snow) and because of the size the Woolly Bush grows to, you really can get a decent sized Christmas tree. Full sun to part shade is best.



Green Carpet Grevillea

Genus: Grevillea

Species: *crithmifolia*

Common Name: Green Carpet

Flower Colour: White

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Large Groundcover

Flowering: Winter to Spring



This is an intriguing variety of Grevillea. Technically it is a ground cover however it can grow to be as much as 1m high. It appears to me to be more like a spreading shrub. Has very beautiful little white flowers that spread right over the 'green carpet' from Winter to Spring which carry quite a wonderful aromatic scent.

This variety will grow in most soils around Australia and in most climates. If you have large areas that you would live to cover with a plant that will require minimum upkeep and pruning then this variety is a good choice. It has also been known to be used as a screening plant or a dividing plant, separating different areas of your garden. I really like the white flowering varieties of Grevillea and though I have not grown this variety myself yet I definitely plan to in the future.

Sea Spray Grevillea

Genus: Grevillea

Species: *preissii*

Common Name: Sea Spray

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Grey

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Autumn to Spring



The first thing that captured my attention with this variety of Grevillea is the raspberry looking flowers. Most variety of Grevillea have very open looking flowers but this kind is more tightly bunched and often clustered together. The flowers are deep red in colour and appear from Autumn through to Spring.

The Grevillea *preissii* prefers sandy or limestone based soils and will cope best in full sun to part shade locations. This variety is slightly smaller than some of the more common types, growing to be between 0.5m and 1m high. It is very much a bird attracting variety, honey eaters absolutely love the nectar from this Grevillea. The grey foliage helps it stand out when planted with the more common green leafed varieties.

Grevillea *nudiflora*

Genus: Grevillea

Species: *nudiflora*

Common Name: Nil

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Ground cover

Flowering: Spring



This is one of the many ground cover varieties of Grevillea that are available. The flower and leaf shape are quite common to many of the shrub varieties. The leaves are green and the flowers red. The upside to this is that the Grevillea is known as a very hardy plant and the simple nature of this variety means it has inherited most of these hardy traits from the shrub varieties, making it a very strong ground cover.

The Grevillea *nudiflora* will cover a large amount of ground and grows well in most well drained soils. It is a low growing variety (there are a few Grevillea ground covers that almost appear to be spreading shrubs) that forms a dense mound which is exactly what you want when planting to ward off weeds and other unwanted plants.

Flame Grevillea

Genus: Grevillea

Species: *excelsior*

Common Name: Flame Grevillea

Flower Colour: Orange

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub 3m+

Flowering: Winter to Spring



What makes the Grevillea *excelsior* so grand? Its bright orange flower. Most Grevillea that I have grown have had red flowers but this variety has a rich orange colour which will really light up your garden. It is a very large growing variety and will take up a good portion on your garden. I personally think this variety would work well as a feature plant in the centre of a garden bed with a heap of smaller shrubs planted around the outside, perhaps even some grevillea ground covers.

The grevillea *excelsior* is a bird attracting plant that prefers sand or gravel based soils. It grows best in a full sun position in well draining soil. It is not uncommon for this variety to grow as large as 4m in height so only choose this variety if you really do want a large plant.

Bell Fruited Mallee Tree

Genus: Eucalyptus

Species: *preissiana*

Common Name: Bell fruited mallee

Flower Colour: Yellow

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub 3m+

Flowering: Spring



The *Eucalyptus preissiana* is a wonderful smaller variety of Eucalyptus. It doesn't generally grow much taller than 3m in height or width and is often smaller which makes it just the right size if you are looking for a small tree. Like most of the Eucalyptus plants the *preissiana* grows best in temperate regions, with limited success in the tropics. The *preissiana* is also a great choice because it can handle a heavy prune which means you really can trim and shape it to keep it at a size that you are happy with, a real benefit in a suburban garden.

The *preissiana* will grow well in sand, gravel or clay soils and is best suited to a full sun position. The flowers generally cover the tree at spring time which can look rather marvelous if planted with the right plants around it, lighting up your garden with wondrous colour.

Coral Gum Tree

Genus: Eucalyptus

Species: *torquata*

Common Name: Coral Gum

Flower Colour: Pink

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Small Tree

Flowering: Spring



If you ever have seen a *torquata* in full bloom it truly is a sight to behold and this is a big reason why many people choose this variety when looking for a Eucalyptus to add to their garden.

This variety is a small tree and will grow from 4m to 10m high. It is endemic to Western Australia and very strongly prefers a climate that experiences a dry summer. The *torquata* has been successfully grown in humid climates but this is probably not a recommended variety for a humid area.

This variety would make a fantastic edition to your garden if you are looking for a small, manageable native Australian tree.

Illyarrie Mallee Tree

Genus: Eucalyptus

Species: *erythrocorys*

Common Name: Illyarrie

Flower Colour: Yellow

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Small Tree

Flowering: Summer to Autumn



The best thing about this variety is its beautiful yellow flower which sprout from red caps. These flowers can be up to 5cm in diameter so they really stand out. The *erythrocorys* is a Eucalyptus that falls under the category of being a ‘Mallee tree’ and will grow from 3m to 10m in height. This is generally taller than most people in suburbia want but it is often planted by farmers or people in the country with larger properties.

The Eucalyptus *erthrocorys* grows best in sandy or limestone based soils so this makes it fantastic for coastal or semi-arid area’s. It is endemic to Western Australia but has been known to grow well around the country. Best grown in full sun with well draining soil.

Rose Mallee Tree

Genus: Eucalyptus

Species: *rhodantha*

Common Name: Rose mallee

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Silver

Growth Habit: Shrub 3m+

Flowering: Autumn to Winter



This is a very common variety of Eucalyptus that people like to grow. What makes this off is that it is actually quite rare in the wild. This is a very neighborhood friendly variety, just don't plant it below power lines because once it grows to full size you'll be paying for years to have it trimmed.

I especially love the red flowers of this variety. For some reason they almost remind me of a mop. The strong red colour is very striking against the silver leaves and when this Eucalyptus is in full flower it is quite a site to behold. This variety requires full sun and really does prefer a warmer climate. Commonly used as a windbreak along driveways on farms because it is small enough to provide cover low down and it spreads wide enough to work really well as a windbreak.

Beaufortia *purpurea*

Genus: Beaufortia

Species: *purpurea*

Common Name: N/A

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub 1m

Flowering: Spring to Summer



Though the flower colour is listed as 'red' it would be more true to call it a 'red-purple' colour, hence why this variety is called *purpurea*, which comes from the latin word for purple, *purpureus*. This variety is a low growing shrub (maximum height is usually about 1m) which flowers from mid spring to late summer. This variety is endemic to Western Australia however like many of the other varieties, this one has been successfully grown in other cool and temperate regions of Australia.

The *purpurea* prefers a rocky or granite based soil and does well on rocky slopes. A great native plant to try in a sloping garden. You can see why this genus is often confused with the Callistemon genus Bottle Brush's.

Beaufortia *elegans*

Genus: Beaufortia

Species: *elegans*

Common Name: N/A

Flower Colour: Purple

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub 1m

Flowering: Spring to Autumn



The *Beaufortia elegans* actually comes in a couple of different colours (I definitely know a red variety exists) but I particularly like the purple variety. This species will grow well in well-draining soils in a full sun to part shade location.

Beaufortia elegans is a plant that responds very well to pruning when it finishes flowering and can be shaped to suit your desires. The *elegans* is endemic to Western Australia but has been successfully grown in most cool to temperate climates around Australia.

Summer Flame

Genus: *Beaufortia*

Species: *aestiva*

Common Name: Summer Flame

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub 1m

Flowering: Summer to Autumn



The *Beaufortia aestiva* is probably the ‘most’ Bottlebrush like of the *Beaufortia* genus. It is a relatively low growing variety, about 1m in height and approximately grows to 2m in width. The key difference between plants of the *Callistemon* genus and the *aestiva* is in the leaves.

The *aestiva* is endemic to Western Australia, predominantly Northern WA, and grows mostly in coastal area’s where the soil has a higher sand/limestone content. This species is extremely waterwise and is also bird attracting. It requires very little upkeep but will respond to pruning. Best results will occur when pruned after it has finished flowering in Summer to Autumn.

Scarlett Bottlebrush

Genus: Callistemon

Species: *phoeniceus*

Common Name: Scarlett Bottlebrush

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Grey-Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 2m

Flowering: Spring to Summer



Though the flower colour is 'said' to be red I can't help but notice a pinkish tinge to some of the flower of *Callistemon phoeniceus*, though this I believe is mostly when the flower is dying. Generally speaking this variety has a very bright red flower.

This variety has a small shrub growth habit and is a fairly hardy variety. It grows best in cold to temperate regions across the South of Australia. The *phoeniceus* requires a moist soil but still needs good drainage. When conditions are right it grows very vigorously with a lot of growth to be expected each flowering season. As such, if you want to keep this under control you will definitely need to prune it at the end of the summer flowering season. I am told that this variety is definitely one of the easiest varieties to grow and its strong red colour really does make it a good choice because it truly looks like a Bottlebrush.

Albany Bottlebrush

Genus: Callistemon

Species: *glaucus*

Common Name: Albany Bottlebrush

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 2m

Flowering: Spring to Summer



This variety of Callistemon is a great choice for a hedge or screen. It grows best in cool or temperate conditions, being endemic to the South West of Western Australia. Very hardy, will handle most soil conditions and likes to have full sun.

This is a great bird attracting Bottlebrush that is really quite easy to manage. Like most other Bottlebrush varieties, trim to desired shape and size after the flowering season. I have seen this variety grow and fill out quite quickly which means if you are trying to grow a hedge, this is definitely a good starting point. A great choice for anywhere along the South of Australia and it really does do particularly well in its native South West of Western Australia (between Perth and Albany).

Crimson Bottlebrush

Genus: Callistemon

Species: *citrinus*

Common Name: Crimson Bottlebrush

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Small Tree to 3m

Flowering: Spring to Autumn



The Crimson Bottlebrush could well be called the King of the Bottlebrush family. It is by far and away the most common and the most popular Bottlebrush and has been exported to many countries around the world. One of the most prized aspects of this species is in its best years it will flower twice, once generally in Spring and then again generally in Autumn.

The *citrinus* prefers soil with good drainage and a full sun position. Applying fertiliser all year round will provide you with the best chance of getting two flowering seasons and the *citrinus* isn't as susceptible to fertilisers with a high phosphorous amount like many other Australian natives. This species is found naturally occurring throughout the East Coast of Australia but will generally do well in most cold and temperate climates. Even the tropics have seen success.

Prickly Bottlebrush

Genus: Callistemon

Species: *braccyandrus*

Common Name: Prickly Bottlebrush

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Small tree to 3m

Flowering: Summer to Autumn



Though most varieties of Callistemon have red flowers, the *braccyandrus* has something that sets it apart and that is the yellow anthers that poke out through the red flower. It has been said that this makes it look like it is covered in gold and I like that idea. This variety has much sharper and pointier leaves than other varieties of Callistemon.. Though in the wild the distribution of the *braccyandrus* is limited in small pockets of the East Coast of Australia, it has proven to be a very hardy and adaptable variety which will grow equally well in wet or dry soils. Full sun is definitely a priority however.

Keep it trimmed to the size that you desire for the place you want it to grow. This makes the *braccyandrus* a good choice for any location that you want a small tree to grow in your garden.

Kunzea *affinis*

Genus: Kunzea

Species: *affinis*

Common Name:

Flower Colour: Pink

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1.5m

Flowering: Spring



The *Kunzea affinis* is a small shrub which grows to roughly 1.5m in height. It usually grows with an upright nature but can be trained to grow more bushy if you desire. Gently cut the growing tips while it is growing to encourage this *Kunzea* to become more bushy.

The *Kunzea affinis* is native to the south of Western Australia and as such prefers a temperate to cool climate. It will grow well in a sunny to part shade position in a well draining soil. Is very hardy to a harsh summer sun and can also withstand mild frosts in the winter.

Very good plant to mix in group plantings with *Leptospermum* or *Melaleuca* plants.

Kunzea capitata

Genus: Kunzea

Species: *capitata*

Common Name: N/A

Flower Colour: Pink Purple (White varieties also available)

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Spring



This species of Kunzea is not widely cultivated even though it has been around for quite some time, first designated the name *Metrosideos capitata* in 1797 and moved into the *Kunzea* family in 1846. It is native to the east coast of Australia, particularly New South Wales. Generally it will grow to about 1 metre in height, with an erect growth pattern, but it is not that uncommon for it to push 2m.

The best climate for this variety of *Kunzea* is a temperate zone with dry, sunny summers and wet winters. For best results make sure that your soil drains well. Grown in these conditions the *Kunzea capitata* will thrive and prove to be quite the hardy addition to your garden. This variety of *Kunzea* can also handle slight shade to full sun positions in your garden.

Genus: *Kunzea*

Species: *ambigua*

Common Name: Tick bush

Flower Colour: White

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 2m

Flowering: Spring



This stunning Australian native is found naturally occurring on the south east coast of Australia. The beautiful white flowers clump together to form a fantastic showing during the spring wildflower season.

The *Kunzea ambigua* is listed as growing to 2m in many places, however many websites suggest the *ambigua* varies greatly in height, with some forms tending to start to 'weep' (hang over) as the plant grows taller, making them seem shorter than the length of their limbs.

The *Kunzea ambigua* requires well drained soil and grows best in a full sun position. The *ambigua* is likely to grow well in cool or temperate climates around Australia.

Scarlet Kunzea

Genus: Kunzea

Species: *baxteri*

Common Name: Scarlet Kunzea

Flower Colour: Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 2m

Flowering: Winter to Spring



The *Kunzea baxteri* is best suited to temperate and cool climates around Australia which experience a wet winter and a hot, dry summer. The Scarlet Kunzea is actually quite similar to the Scarlet Bottlebrush, though the red colour in the flower is much deeper with the *baxteri*.

The *Kunzea baxteri* grows in an erect nature and flowers in Winter to Spring. It generally tends to grow to about 2m in height although the *baxteri* can grow taller. The leaves also tend to be smaller than that which are found on plants in the Bottlebrush (*Callistemon*) species of Australian natives.

This is a very hardy variety that is native to southeast of Western Australia which would be a great addition to your garden.

Telopea Valley Star

Genus: *Boronia*

Species: *telopea*

Common Name: Telopea Valley Star

Flower Colour: Pink

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Mostly Spring but may flower any season



Being a hybrid, there is no specific naturally occurring location, however the *telopea* has been proven to grow well on in cool to temperate climates on the East Coast of Australia. Testing in tropical areas has been limited. This variety is generally quite hardy, able to survive mild frost and mild drought conditions. The *Boronia telopea* also responds really well to regular pruning and shaping. I would plant it in a position that is at least part shade as most *Boronia*'s I have grown have required some shade to really thrive.

Telopea Valley Star was discovered and named by John & Mary Grieve at their property 'Telopea Valley' Kulnura NSW in the early 1980's where the plant was growing naturally. They discovered and named several other plants, all bearing 'Telopea Valley' in the name.

Fraser's Boronia

Genus: Boronia

Species: *fraseri*

Common Name: Fraser's Boronia

Flower Colour: Pink

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 2m

Flowering: Spring



This is a slightly more obscure variety of the Boronia family. It grows and looks much like many other species, but generally doesn't succeed as well as a garden plant, making it less desirable for most native growers. Because of this there is actually very little information available about how to grow it. However, I don't just want to advocate easy plants to grow, I like some challenging plants too. If you like a medium challenge, I believe the *fraseri* will be a good one for you.

For best results with the *fraseri*, plant it in a good loam soil which is well draining. The Boronia *fraseri* definitely prefers a part shade location and grows best in temperate to cool climates, reportedly being able to handle mild frost conditions.

Boronia *pinnata*

Genus: Boronia

Species: *pinnata*

Common Name: NA

Flower Colour: Pink (White varieties available)

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1.5m

Flowering: Spring



The *Boronia pinnata* species is a native variety that is found very commonly in New South Wales, generally found in areas where sandstone is prevalent. It is a hardy variety that comes mostly in pink but is also available with white coloured flowers. Like many Boronia varieties, the *pinnata* is best grown in slightly shaded area's and prefers soils that drain well.

The *Boronia pinnata* is great for use as a cut flower but is often sometimes used for the sweet, aromatic scent provided when the flowers and leaves are crushed and as such is sometimes used to make perfumes. This variety is also often grown well in a pot. Because it can be susceptible to the hot sun and/or strong winds, growing it in a pot enables you to move it around the garden if need be.

Brown Boronia

Genus: Boronia

Species: *megastigma*

Common Name: Brown Boronia

Flower Colour: Yellow and Brown

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m

Flowering: Spring



The main variety of *Boronia megastigma* has wonderful flowers that are a deep brown on the outside and a beautiful bright yellow on the inside. The *megastigma* does have a few sub-species with various difference in their flower colour.

Boronia's are commonly used in the cut flower trade and so are quite highly sought after. They are also very aromatic, which means they have a wonderful perfume. Another use for the *megastigma* is as a source for essential oils to make perfumes and other things which smell like Boronia.

The *megastigma* grows into a bush of about 1m x 1m. Boronia's are best suited to temperate or cool climates, with an emphasis towards the cooler climate. Grow it in a well draining soil in a sunny to part shade location.

Hard Leaf Wattle

Genus: *Acacia*

Species: *sclerophylla*

Common Names: Hard Leaf Wattle

Flower Colour: Yellow

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 2m

Flowering: Spring



This variety is apparently one of the most hardy *Acacia* varieties, supporting most soil types. It reportedly thrives in both full sun positions or positions that experience part shade and is tolerant of frosts to around about -7 degrees celcius. This makes for one very sustainable and hardy plant!

Though it is not a ground cover, due to its height, it does spread quite wide, sometimes to as much as 3m which makes it a good 'fill' variety, to be used to cover big spaces that you don't want to see. It sends out lots of stems as it grows, making it quite a bushy variety. This coupled with its flower nature leads it to be one of the most decorative *Acacia* varieties that you can get.

Wreath Wattle or Gold Dust Wattle

Genus: *Acacia*

Species: *acinacea*

Common Names: Wreath Wattle, Gold Dust Wattle

Flower Colour: Yellow

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 2m

Flowering: Late Autumn to Spring



The *Acacia acinacea* is endemic to the South Eastern parts of Australia. There are three sub species and these sub species occur, to varying degrees, across the states of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

The *acinacea* has a life of around 15 years and is known to be relatively drought and frost hardy. One of the great assets that the *acinacea* has is that it can grown in many different kinds of soil, often times in places where other Australian natives struggle, and it has been known to help rejuvenate the soil it is growing in. The only real soil that it will struggle to grow in is salty, or saline soils, which generally occur close to the coast. If you live a little inland, there should be no problems.

Genus: *Acacia*

Species: *acuminata*

Common Name: Jam Wattle

Flower Colour: Yellow

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Small Tree to 5m

Flowering: Winter to Spring



Acacia acuminata is endemic to the South West of Western Australia. It grows slowly to about a height of 5m, though they have been known to grow to heights of 10m plus. The flowers absolutely cover the tree which makes for quite a spectacle.

As it grows slowly, it adapts to its environment, helping it to grow firm and strong. Also, because it flowers so heavily, it is a good attraction for bees and native birds, which is good if you want a full blooming garden.

The *acuminata* prefers a sunny position with good draining soil. It is known to be relatively tolerant to extended droughts and can also handle frost. Fire however will kill the plant, as it is generally unable to re-grow after big fires.

Myrtle Hakea

Genus: Hakea

Species: *myrtoides*

Common Name: Myrtle Hakea

Flower Colour: Shade of red/pink

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 0.5m

Flowering: Winter to Spring



This variety grows low, growing to around about half a metre in height to a metre at most, and has prolific flowers which makes it a fantastic shrub to plant in and around some of your bigger growing shrubs or feature plants.

This variety can be difficult to grow and requires a dry climate, so is not a good choice for sub tropical or tropical regions. It is endemic to Perth but can even struggle to grow there if Perth experiences a more humid than normal summer.

It also requires very well draining soil for it to thrive, but if you can get the right conditions, this variety is a very good choice. I really like the shape of the flowers and the colour contrast between these particular greens and red/pinks. Possibly a variety for the more brave to try and grow, but why not learn by trying!

Genus: Hakea

Species: *bucculenta*

Common Name: Red Pokers

Flower Colour: Red/Orange

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub to 4m

Flowering: Winter to Spring



The Hakea *bucculenta* is quite a showy plant, mostly due to its roughly 15cm long orange/red flower spikes. Because of these flowers, this variety will readily attract birds, bees and other wildlife that likes lots of nectar. When the flowers are finished it forms woody seed pods, which you can easily cut off if you don't like the look. These seeds would only be released in the case of fire or death of the plant.

Though endemic to the central west coast of WA, the Hakea *bucculenta* has been known to grow in most climates around Australia. It prefers dry sand plains, but can handle both mild frost and humid conditions, though these two climates can limit the growth and flowering ability of this variety. Like so many varieties of Hakea, the best position for this variety is in a well draining soil (particularly this variety) and full sun. It will tolerate some shade.

Pin Cushion Hakea

Genus: Hakea

Species: *laurina*

Common Name: Pin cushion Hakea

Flower Colour: Cherry Red

Foliage Colour: Green

Growth Habit: Shrub from 2-5m

Flowering: Autumn to Winter



The Hakea *laurina* is endemic to the southern coastal area's of Western Australia and tends to prefer cooler climates, though there has been some success growing this variety in slightly warmer temperate climates. This Hakea is not suitable for regions that experience high humidity. The best place to grow the Hakea *laurina* is in a well draining soil in full sun. It will grow in part shade but this tends to limit the bushiness and flowering ability of the plant, so if this is where you choose to plant it, expect fewer flowers than would otherwise be normal.

Though the Hakea *laurina* is tolerant of frost, this can cause the plant to limit its flowering also. However, even with all these things that can limit the flowering ability, the Hakea *laurina* is one of the more respected varieties of Hakea for native gardens, even having limited worldwide popularity.

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