

1. Australian Plants

2. Exotic Plants

1. A selection of hardy and attractive Australian native plants suitable for South Australia

Groundcovers, grasses, sedges, rushes, flax-lilies:

Chrysocephalum spp. Everlasting Daisy

Good as groundcover and companion plant with shrubs. Rejuvenate by shearing to just above ground level in late winter/early spring. Attracts butterflies.

Dianella spp. Flax Lily (and cultivars)

Small clumping perennial, strappy leaves. Blue flower spikes in spring

Eremophila glabra 'Kalbarri Carpet' Prostrate form

Attractive silver-green leaves. Flowers orange, yellow, green or red most of the year. Good food source for honeyeaters. Will tolerate dappled shade but prefers sunny well-drained position on loam, clay or sand. Drought and moderately frost tolerant. Suitable for rockeries and small gardens in inland and coastal positions.

Lomandra longifolia Mat Rush (and cultivars)

Tussocks 30-70cm high, narrow stiff strappy leaves. Grows in almost any soil and aspect. Ideal for mass planting in garden beds, borders, fence lines and low water gardens. Grows well in full sun to shaded position. Prefers well-drained sandy soils.

Isolepis nodosa Knobby Club Rush

Tufted rush to 1m high. Forms clumps of upright often arching, dark green stems. Ideal for planting around ponds as well as general garden. Brownish, globular flower heads produced through the year. Tolerates salty spray, waterlogged and saline soils.

Juncus usitatus Tussock Rush

Drought tolerant ornamental tussock. Showy yellow seed heads in late spring. Tolerates dry or damp conditions.

Microlaena stipoides Weeping Grass (several varieties)

A tufted perennial grass that produces year round green growth. Tolerates acid soils, drought and frost. A native lawn alternative.

Myoporum parvifolium Creeping Boobiella

Dense prostrate carpet with dark green to purplish foliage. Sprinkled with white starry flowers in summer. Likes well drained soil, sunny position.

Poa poiformis Blue Tussock Grass (and cultivars)

Tussocky grass to 1m high. Thrives in sandy, well-drained soil, tolerates extended dry periods. Adds contrast to rockeries, borders and ideal for coastal conditions. Prominent seed heads of up to 1.5m in summer. Also *Poa labillardieri* (and cultivars)

Scaevola albida Fanflower (and cultivars)

Mostly prostrate spreading plant to 60cm high. Fan shaped white or blue flowers. Good around edges of shrub plantings. Likes well drained soil.

Small shrubs:

Correa pulchella Correa (and cultivars)

Prostrate to 1m high. Tubular bell-shaped flowers late autumn to spring. Shades of pink, red, orange-red, white.

Eremophila maculata Spotted Emu Bush

0.5 to 1.5m high. Grey-green leaves. Yellow, mauve, pink or red flowers in winter and spring. Combines well with *Correa pulchella*, *Chrysocephalum* Golden Buttons, *Scaevola*

Grevillea lavandulacea Lavender Grevillea (and cultivars, compact or spreading)
Variable shrub to 1m high. Pale to deep pink/red flowers winter and spring. Grey-green foliage. Well-drained, sunny position. Attracts nectar-feeding birds.

Hardenbergia violacea Native Lilac (shrub or climbing form)
A subshrub with trailing and twining stems. Dark green leaves, purple flowers winter/ spring.

Leucophyta brownii Cushion Bush (and cultivars)
Low growing compact rounded shrub to 1m high. Silver-grey foliage. Likes full sun. Benefits from regular pruning. Combines well with Scaevolas.

Maireana sedifolia Pearl Bluebush
Spectacular compact blue-grey foliage shrub to 1.5m high. Prefers sunny position.

Thryptomene ericaea Centenary Starburst/Kangaroo Island Thryptomene
Slender shrub to 1.5m high. Tiny pink buds open to white flowers with red centres spring/early summer. SA Floral Emblem for Australia's Bicentenary of federation. Good drainage, full sun. Also other Thryptomenes.

Large shrubs:

Alyogyne huegelii Native Hibiscus
Rounded shrub to 2m high. Variable lobed leaves. Lilac to white hibiscus-like flowers spring/summer. Suits most soils. Sunny position. Tolerates frost.

Banksia integrifolia Coast Banksia (prostrate form available)
Medium tree to 15m high. Coast or inland. Frost and wind tolerant. Yellow flowers in autumn-spring. Interesting foliage and seedpods.

Callistemon rugulosus Scarlet Bottlebrush
Rounded shrub to 4m high. Red flower spikes with yellow anthers summer/autumn. Suits most soils. Likes sunny position.

Melaleuca filifolia Wiry Honey-Myrtle
Erect open shrub to 2.5m high. Slender multiple branches, linear green leaves and profuse mauve-pink flowers winter/spring. Prefers well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates light frosts, extended dry periods and strong winds. Respond well to pruning. Useful low screening plant.

Hakea petiolaris Sea Urchin Hakea
Excellent ornamental species 2-9m high. Suitable for hot dry areas. Drought tolerant. Excellent for windbreaks, screening, street tree and cut flowers. Attracts birds.

Small trees:

Allocasuarina verticillata Drooping Sheoak
Round-headed tree 5-8m high. Long pendulous branchlets. Suits variety of sites and soils. Tolerates most soils, heat and salt spray.

Eucalyptus caesia 'Silver Princess'
Ornamental tree to 8m high. Silver-grey young stems, deep brown bark which peels to reveal pale undersurface, deep green foliage with a whitish bloom. Large flowers usually pink to red in colour (sometimes white) winter/spring. Flowers followed by large, urn-shaped "gumnuts". Likes dry summer.

Dwarfed eucalypts

Many gardens do not have the space for large spreading trees but still require a small tree element to balance the landscape. Dwarfed Eucalypts can have long flowering seasons and may be planted singly or in groups. Good food source for honeyeaters.

2. Some drought tolerant and attractive Exotic plants suitable for South Australia

Ground covers, small - medium shrubs:

***Ceanothus griseus* var. *horizontalis* ‘Yankee Point’**

California

One of several cultivars. Low sprawling shrub to 1 metre, can be kept under 0.5 metres with regular light tipping of young upright shoot tips. Glossy green leaves and typical lilac-blue flowers. Good for growing on slopes. Tip lightly, do not cut back heavily into thick wood.

Centaurea cineraria

Dusty Miller

western & southern Italy

Attractive grey leafed long-lived perennial 1-1.5 m tall with purple, thistle-like daisy flowers. One of several similar *Centaurea* sp. and *Senecio* sp. known by this common name. All are hardy & drought tolerant.

Portulacaria affra

Jade Plant

South Africa

This semi-succulent shrub 1-2 metres tall has stiff reddish stems and small fleshy, rounded leaves. It only flowers when fully mature, producing clusters of tiny pink flowers. Will grow in almost any location and is excellent for pots.

Echium candicans

Pride of Madeira

Madeira

Also sold as *E. fastuosum*. Soft wooded unruly evergreen shrub of 1.5 to 2 metres with long, silvery-pubescent leaves and tall spiked inflorescences rising above with flowers of purplish-pink and white. A dramatic feature plant. Can be cut back as old shoots fade. Plant lasts 4-6 years, but easily re-establishes from self-sown seedlings.

***Cistus* spp.**

Rock Rose (many cultivars) Mediterranean

Compact shrubs from 0.5-1.5 metres with small-medium, slightly rough textured leaves and pink, white, or yellow flowers that bear a superficial resemblance to single roses. Good performers in our climate.

***Hebe* spp.**

Veronica (many cultivars) New Zealand

Shrubs from 0.5-4 metres with oval, tough, dark green, slightly leathery leaves. Flowers are in a spike (like a mini bottlebrush) and commonly blue. Strong, vigorous growers which can be pruned hard if desired every few years.

Teucrium fruticans

Bush Germander

Europe

A scrambly, angular shrub 1-2 metres tall with white-woolly, leaves and forking stems tipped by sprays of lavender-blue flowers. Can be clipped each year to maintain shape and encourage flowering.

***Rhamphiolepis* spp.**

Hawthorn (cultivars)

E Asia & China

Evergreen shrubs of 1-2 metres with dark green leathery leaves and white to pink flowers. Can be slow growing but excellent once established.

Medium - large Shrubs:

Ceanothus

California Lilac

California,

Cultivars are available from groundcover to large shrub size. Dense, bushy habit. Foliage of bright green textured leaves and predominately lilac blue flowers. Can be lightly trimmed for shape, but avoid heavy cutting into thicker stems and branches. Heavily pruned ceanothus do not recover well and can become infected with eutypa dieback fungus (Apricot “gummosis”).

Gardenia thunbergia

White Gardenia

South Africa

Slow growing large evergreen shrub to small tree up to 4-5 metres. Rigid stems and smooth grey bark. Leaves are robust and 14 x 6 cm. White to cream fragrant flowers are born at the tips. Combines the white fragrance of common gardenia in an attractive, hardy, drought tolerant plant.

Laurus nobilis

Bay Laurel, Sweet Bay

Southern Europe

Naturally an evergreen tree growing slowly up to 9 metres or so tall but very often kept clipped to shrub size. Broad, glossy dark green leaves with subtle flavour & scent. Dried leaves used as a flavour in cooking. Flowers are small, greenish-yellow followed by purple-black berries with an oil used in perfumes.

Myrtus communis Common Myrtle Mediterranean
Grows naturally to a large bushy, evergreen shrub of 4-5 metres. Leaves are shiny, bright green 5 cm long, aromatic and pointed. Flowers are white & fragrant, with prominent stamens. Has blue-black berries to 10 cm. Responds well to clipping, used as clipped shrub, hedges, topiary & even bonsai. Numerous cultivars.

Trees:

Bauhinia variegata Orchid tree East Asia
Evergreen spreading tree 7-9 metres tall. Large rounded leaves to 20 cm long. The striking feature of this tree is its large, pea shaped orchid-like flowers that are either purple (*B.v.* var. *purpurea*) or white (*B.v.* 'Candida').

Lagerstroemia Crepe Myrtle Hybrid cultivars
Deciduous, small shrubs to small trees with crepe-like flowers of red, pink, purple or white born in profusion in summer. Bark is smooth and attractive pinks & browns. Winter pruning will keep trees in good shape & flowering profusely. These new cultivars, developed in the 1980's in the US resist the mildew problems of old *L. indica* varieties.

Koelreuteria paniculata Golden Rain N. China, Korea
Small to medium deciduous tree, 6-9 metres tall with 30-35 cm divided leaves and sprays of lemon yellow flowers in summer, followed in autumn by light golden brown, papery seed pods. Autumn leaves are bright yellow. Always something to be seen on this popular tree.

***Malus ioensis* 'Plena'** Bechtel crab Central N. America
Small deciduous tree, eventually 4-6 metres tall with 5-10 cm serrated leaves, turning yellow to reddish in autumn. Produces a mass spring display of double, white to pinkish apple blossoms in October, after the main spring flowering of *Prunus* sp. Fabulous!

***Prunus* 'Elvins'** Elvins Flowering Plum Cultivar
Small deciduous flowering plum reaching 3-4 metres. Leaves are 7 cm, dark green and serrated. Massed display in spring of white flowers, fading to coral pink. A good choice of a flowering "prunus" where space is limited.

***Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Umbraculifera'** Mop Top Robinia Cultivar
Small to medium, very round-headed compact deciduous tree 5-7 metres tall available as a 1.75 metre standard. Long divided leaves and 5 cm leaflets. Occasionally produces some white, pea-shaped flowers. A very neat tree & a great choice for a formal garden layout.

Climbers:

Trachelospermum jasminoides Star Jasmine China
Evergreen twining climber to 4-5 metres with 5 cm glossy leaves and intensely fragrant, white star-shaped flowers. Retains foliage to ground level, so excellent for screening in sun or semi-shade. Needs occasional watering in summer, but is a great performer.

Macfadyena unguis-cati Cats-claw Creeper Central to S.America
Evergreen climber that clings by claw-like tendrils. Has yellow trumpet flowers with orange stripes in the throat. Great self-clinger without support. Thrives in full sun.