



Wollondilly
Shire Council

WATER WISE & FIRE SMART GARDEN



WATER WISE & FIRE SMART GARDEN

In the wake of the 2019/20 fires people who live near affected areas have been attempting to re-establish plants to repair their gardens and provide habitat for local birds, insects and other fauna. There are some key ideas that you can use to set up your gardens to reduce risk, be more water wise and create a more resilient landscape.

During dry times and particularly after the couple of years of drought we experienced in the lead up to the fires all plant material can burn. Plant selection and garden design can help you to reduce risk and minimise the potential for fire to take hold and spread through you garden.

The key to protecting your property from fire is ensuring you have defensible space, and this can influence how you design and maintain your garden.

Reduce fuel to make it harder for the fire to reach the house along the ground

- **Remove dead leaves and branches** from under trees. **Leave gaps** between garden beds — you can use paving, pebble beds, fish or frog ponds.
- Use **water wise succulent** shrubs and groundcovers.
- **Avoid** plants and combustible mulch right up against your house.

Vertical and horizontal separation between the leaves and branches of plants

- **Separate** trees from shrubs to provide vertical separation. Plant ground covers under trees instead of shrubs trees.
- **Prune lower branches** on plants so there is a gap between the leaves and the ground.

Plant Selection



- Plants with **wide, flat, thick or soft, fleshy leaves** generally contain more moisture than very fine needle-like leaves and are less likely to dry out and burn when a fire comes.
- Scented plants containing waxes and oils tend to be more flammable that is why Eucalypts burn readily.
- Use plant varieties that **don't have loose, flakey, papery or stringy barks** as these are less likely to have fire spread up the trunk.
- Select plants that have space between their branches. You can prune your plants to create space and to remove dead branches or leaves. Plants with **closely packed branches** are more likely to burn easily. Plants that don't accumulate a lot of dead leaf and stem material below them or suspended in the foliage.

Try to **keep your garden green and well-watered**. Research has shown that homes with greener, moist gardens are more likely to survive. The installation of drip irrigation systems with a timer can help to do this in a waterwise way. Where possible irrigate from non-potable water sources. During drought times this can be difficult so also consider selecting fires wise drought hardy plants.

Try and implement ways to **harvest stormwater and hold more water on your property** such as the use of rainwater tanks and contour banks which prevent excessive stormwater runoff and soak more water into the soil keeping it moist for longer. If you have a pool, tank or dam, contact the Rural Fire Service to find out if it is a suitable firefighting water source. If it is a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign can be installed on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water.

Recommended Species to Plant - Trees



Botanical Name:
Acacia binervia
Common Name:
Coastal Myall



Botanical Name:
Acacia elata
Common Name:
Cedar Wattle



Botanical Name:
Acacia floribunda
Common Name:
White Sallow Wattle



Botanical Name:
Acacia implexa
Common Name:
Hickory Wattle



Botanical Name:
Acacia longifolia
Common Name:
Sydney Golden Wattle



Botanical Name:
Allocasuarina littoralis
Common Name:
Black She-Oak



Botanical Name:
Allocasuarina torulosa
Common Name:
Forest Oak



Botanical Name:
Backhousia myrtifolia
Common Name:
Grey Myrtle



Botanical Name:
Banksia integrifolia
Common Name:
Coast Banksia



Botanical Name:
Banksia serrata
Common Name:
Old Man Banksia



Botanical Name:
Brachychiton populneous
Common Name:
Kurrajong



Botanical Name:
Casuarina cunninghamiana
Common Name:
River Oak



Botanical Name:
Casuarina glauca
Common Name:
Swamp Oak



Botanical Name:
Ceratopetalum apetalum
Common Name:
Coachwood



Botanical Name:
Ceratopetalum gummiferum
Common Name:
NSW Christmas Bush



Botanical Name:
Elaeocarpus reticulatus
Common Name:
Blueberry Ash



Botanical Name:
Ficus coronata
Common Name:
 Sandpaper Fig



Botanical Name:
Ficus macrophylla
Common Name:
 Moreton Bay Fig



Botanical Name:
Ficus rubiginosa
Common Name:
 Port Jackson Fig



Botanical Name:
Glochidion ferdinandi
Common Name:
 Cheese Tree



Botanical Name:
Hakea salicifolia
Common Name:
 Willow-leaf Hakea



Botanical Name:
Homalanthus populifolius
Common Name:
 Bleeding Heart Tree



Botanical Name:
Hymenosporum flavum
Common Name:
 Native Frangipani



Botanical Name:
Melia azedarach
Common Name:
 White Cedar



Botanical Name:
Myrsine variabilis
Common Name:
 Muttonwood



Botanical Name:
Pittosporum undulatum
Common Name:
 Sweet Pittosporum



Botanical Name:
Stenocarpus salignus
Common Name:
 Scrub Beefwood



Botanical Name:
Syzygium australe
Common Name:
 Brush Cherry



Botanical Name:
Syzygium smithii
Common Name:
 Lilly Pilly



Botanical Name:
Trema tomentosa
Common Name:
 Poison Peach



Botanical Name:
Tristaniopsis laurina
Common Name:
 Water Gum

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Recommended Species to Plant - Shrubs



Botanical Name:
Acacia terminalis
Common Name:
Sunshine Wattle



Botanical Name:
Atriplex cinerea
Common Name:
Grey Saltbush



Botanical Name:
Banksia marginata
Common Name:
Silver Banksia



Botanical Name:
Banksia robur
Common Name:
Swamp Banksia



Botanical Name:
Banksia spinulosa
Common Name:
Hairpin Banksia



Botanical Name:
Callicoma serratifolia
Common Name:
Black Wattle



Botanical Name:
Correa alba
Common Name:
White Correa



Botanical Name:
Correa reflexa
Common Name:
Common Correa



Botanical Name:
Dodonaea triquetra
Common Name:
Common Hop-bush



Botanical Name:
Dodonaea viscosa
Common Name:
Sticky Hop-bush



Botanical Name:
Doryanthes excelsa
Common Name:
Gynea Lilly



Botanical Name:
Grevillea longifolia
Common Name:
Fern-leaf Grevillea



Botanical Name:
Grevillea speciosa
Common Name:
Red Spider Flower



Botanical Name:
Hakea dactyloides
Common Name:
Braid Leaved Hakea



Botanical Name:
Hakea teretifolia
Common Name:
Needle Bush



Botanical Name:
Indigofera australis
Common Name:
 Native Indigo



Botanical Name:
Jacksonia scoparia
Common Name:
 Dogwood



Botanical Name:
Lambertia formosa
Common Name:
 Mountain Devil



Botanical Name:
Lomatia myricoides
Common Name:
 Long Leaved Lomatia



Botanical Name:
Melaleuca thymifolia
Common Name:
 Thyme Honey-Myrtle



Botanical Name:
Myoprum montanum
Common Name:
 Boobialla



Botanical Name:
Persoonia sp.
Common Name:
 Geebung



Botanical Name:
Philotheca myoporoides
Common Name:
 Wax Flower



Botanical Name:
Pimelea linifolia
Common Name:
 Riceflower



Botanical Name:
Pittosporum revolutum
Common Name:
 Yellow Pittosporum



Botanical Name:
Pomaderris sp.
Common Name:
 Pomaderris



Botanical Name:
Solanum aviculare
Common Name:
 Kangaroo Apple



Botanical Name:
Arthropodium fimbriatum
Common Name:
Vanilla Lilly



Botanical Name:
Dianella caerulea
Common Name:
Blue Flax Lily



Botanical Name:
Dianella revoluta
Common Name:
Blueberry Lily



Botanical Name:
Dichopogon fimbriatus
Common Name:
Nodding Chocolate Lily



Botanical Name:
Doodia aspera
Common Name:
Prickly Rasp Fern



Botanical Name:
Einadia hastata
Common Name:
Saloop



Botanical Name:
Einadia nutans
Common Name:
Salt Bush



Botanical Name:
Goodenia ovata
Common Name:
Hop Goodenia



Botanical Name:
Isotoma axillaris
Common Name:
Rock Isotome



Botanical Name:
Kennedia rubicunda
Common Name:
Wandering Postman



Botanical Name:
Lomandra longifolia
Common Name:
Spiny Mat-rush



Botanical Name:
Microlaena stipoides
Common Name:
Weeping Grass



Botanical Name:
Pratia purpureascens
Common Name:
Whiteroot



Botanical Name:
Scaevola sp.
Common Name:
Fan-flower



Botanical Name:
Stypandra glauca
Common Name:
Nodding Blue Lily



Botanical Name:
Viola hederacea
Common Name:
Native Violet

ROBIN DAVIES WOLLONDILLY COMMUNITY NURSERY

Propagation Area

Wollondilly Community Nursery



OPEN TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 9AM-2PM
WONGA RD. PICTON



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