

Native Plant Guide

Your guide to a thriving, native waterwise garden



About this guide

This guide has been developed by SERCUL in partnership with the City of Stirling and is intended for City of Stirling residents. It is a general guide only.

Nestled on the picturesque Swan Coastal Plain, the City of Stirling enjoys a landscape that's mostly flat, with soft undulations and low hills that stretch toward the horizon. The wetlands and the coastal areas are a dominant feature of Mooro Nyoongar Boodjar. The gentle terrain creates a welcoming environment for both residents and native wildlife.

The region is known for its sandy soils, especially near the coastline. These well-drained soils support a rich variety of native plants and contribute to Stirling's vibrant natural character. As you move inland, the soil becomes more diverse, with loamier textures and occasional clay patches, particularly around wetlands. All these features add to the ecological richness of the area.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wadjak people of the Nyoongar nation, and pay respect to Elders both past and present.

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Key

- Coastal Friendly
- West Coastal Friendly
- Central Suitable
- Bee attracting
- Butterfly attracting
- Bird attracting
- Black Cockatoo attracting
- Water Wise*

Plants with a WaterWise rating are considered WaterWise by the Water Corporation, see page 17 for more information.

Text colour defines start of flowering time:
Spring
Summer
Autumn
Winter
All Year

Soil Types in the City of Stirling



Central

Central Coastal Plain soils are 10-20 km's from the coast and tend to be grey, white or very pale brown sand. They are comprised mainly of deep sands. They range from neutral to acid soils.



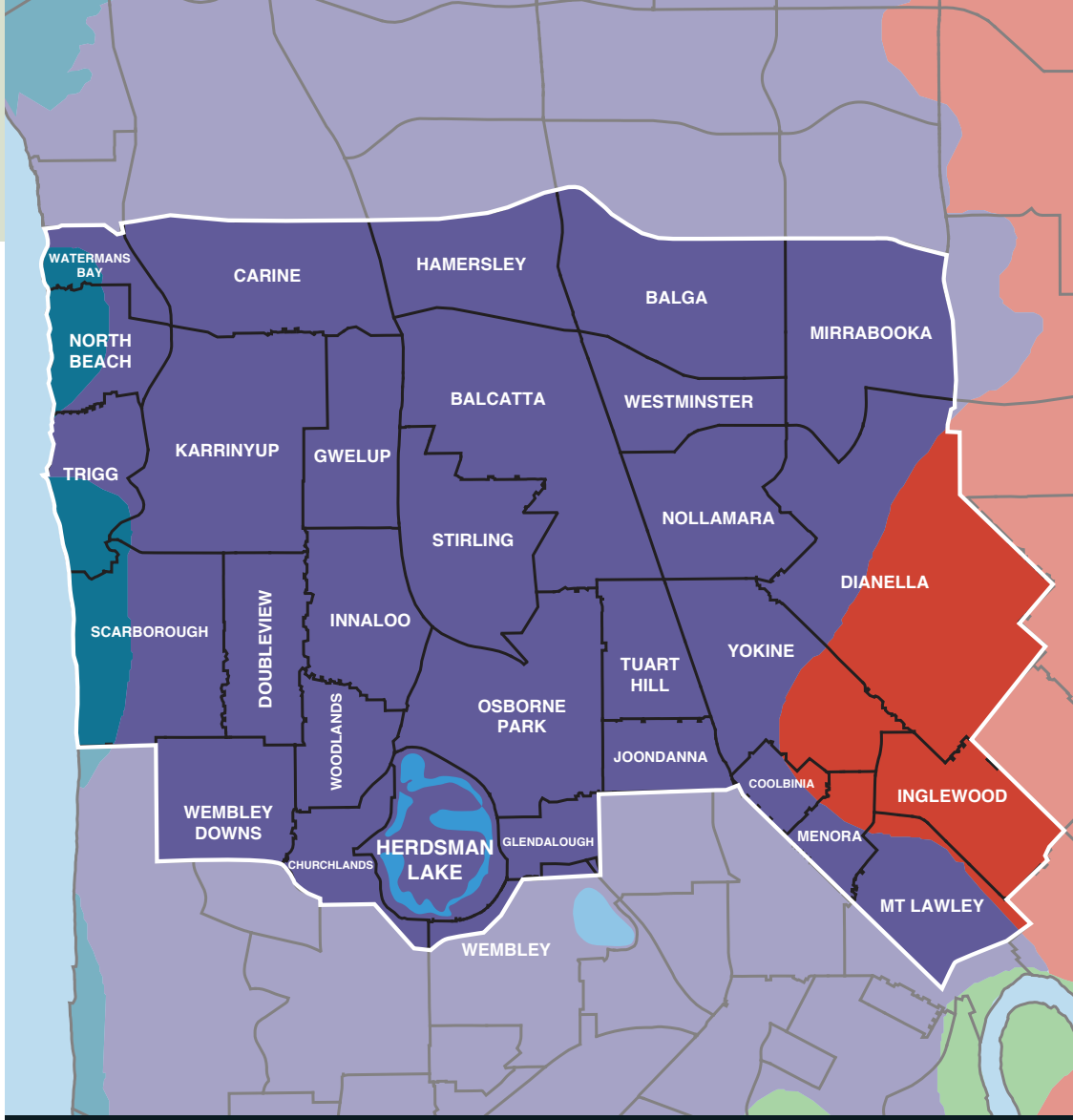
West Coastal

Stretching from Neerabup in the north to Karnup in the south, West Coastal Plain soils are largely yellow, orange or brown sand, usually with a grey surface, over limestone at depth. They tend to be neutral in the surface soils.



Coastal

Coastal soils can be found in suburbs along the coast stretching from Jindalee to Singleton. They are deep, white in colour and comprise beach sand containing limestone. They tend to be strongly alkaline (pH >7).



Use the map to identify the soil type in your suburb.

Dont live in the City of Stirling and can't find your suburb?

Visit www.sercul.org.au/our-projects/fertilise-wise/ to view the full map

Coastal

West Coastal

Central

Trees (Up to 15m)

Common Name *Botanical Name*	Height (m)	Flower Colour	Flower Time
Peppermint *Agonis flexuosa*	12-15	white	Aug-Dec
Fraser's Sheoak *Allocasuarina fraseriana*	15	brown	May-Oct
Ashby's Banksia *Banksia ashbyi*	1-8	orange	Dec-Feb
Candle Banksia *Banksia attenuata*	5-8	yellow	Sep-Oct
Bull Banksia *Banksia grandis*	10	yellow	Sep-Dec
Holly-leaf Banksia *Banksia ilicifolia*	10	pink - cream	Mar-Jan
Firewood Banksia *Banksia menziesii*	10	pink - red	Feb-Aug
Cut-leaf Banksia *Banksia praemorsa*	4	gold	Jul-Oct
Saw-tooth Banksia *Banksia prionotes*	10	cream - orange	Feb-Aug
Rottnest Island Pine *Callitris preissii*	4-6	brown	Jan-Dec
Red Flowering Gum *Corymbia ficifolia*	8	red	Dec-May
Silver Princess *Eucalyptus caesia*	12	pink, red	May-Sep
Redheart *Eucalyptus decipiens*	15	white	Aug-Jan
Illyarrie *Eucalyptus erythrocorys*	7	yellow	Feb-Apr
Bushy Yate *Eucalyptus lehmannii*	2-4	green, yellow	all year
Mottlecah *Eucalyptus macrocarpa*	5	red, pink	all year
Coastal Blackbutt *Eucalyptus todtiana*	9-16	creamy white	Feb
Coral Gum *Eucalyptus torquata*	4-11	pink, red	Aug-Dec
Rottnest Tea-tree *Melaleuca lanceolata*	5	white	Oct-Mar
Sandplain Woody Pear *Xylomelum angustifolium*	7	creamy white	Dec-Feb

Large Shrubs (3 to 5m)

Common Name *Botanical Name*	Height (m)	Flower Colour	Flower Time
Red-eyed Wattle *Acacia cyclops*	3	yellow	Sep-Jan
Coojong *Acacia saligna*	5	yellow	Aug-Oct
Common Woollybush *Adenanthos cygnorum*	2-4	red	Sep-Feb
Parrotbush *Banksia sessilis*	4-5	yellow	May-Nov
Showy Banksia *Banksia speciosa*	5	cream	Jan-Feb
Tree Smokebush *Conospermum triplinervium*	4-5	greyish white	Aug-Nov
Perth Hopbush *Dodonaea hackettiana*	4	green, red	Jul-Oct
Narrow-leaved Gastrolobium *Gastrolobium ebracteolatum*	4	red, yellow	Sep-Jan
Red Pokers *Hakea bucculenta*	4.5	red	Aug-Sep
Harsh Hakea *Hakea prostrata*	3	white	Aug-Nov
Two-leaf Hakea *Hakea trifurcata*	3.5	white, cream, pink	Jul-Oct
Royal Hakea *Hakea victoria*	3	white, colourful foliage	Jun-Jul
Zamia Palm *Macrozamia riedlei*	3	red cones	Sep-Oct
Chenille Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca huegelii*	3	white	Nov-Jan
Grey Honeymyrtle *Melaleuca incana*	4	yellow, cream	May-Nov
Basket Bush *Spyridium globulosum*	3	white	Jun-Nov



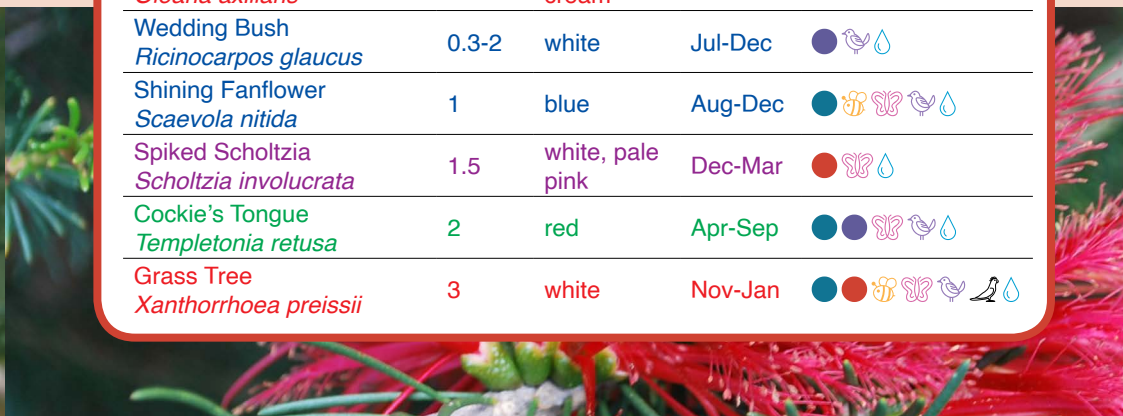
Medium Shrubs (1m - 3m)

Common Name *Botanical Name*	Height (m)	Flower Colour	Flower Time
Rigid Wattle *Acacia cochlearis*	2	yellow	Aug-Sep
Tooth-bearing Acacia *Acacia dentifera*	3	golden	Aug-Nov
Prickly Moses *Acacia pulchella*	1.5	yellow	Jun-Oct
Angle-leaved/West Coast Wattle *Acacia truncata*	0.5-2	yellow	Jun-Sep
Basket Flower *Adenanthos obovatus*	2	scarlet, orange	May-Dec
Woollybush *Adenanthos sericeus*	0.5-2	red	Jun-Apr
Dwarf Sheoak *Allocasuarina humilis*	1.5	brown, red	May-Nov
Lilac Hibiscus *Alyogyne huegelii*	1-3	lilac	Sep-Dec
Grey Saltbush *Atriplex cinerea*	1.5	cream-yellow	Sept-Dec
Coast Saltbush *Atriplex isatidea*	2	green	Mar-Jun
Prickly Dryandra *Banksia armata*	1.5	yellow	Jun-Nov
Sand Bottlebrush *Beaufortia squarrosa*	2	red	all year
Winged Boronia *Boronia alata*	0.3-2	pink, white	Jul-Dec
One-sided Bottlebrush *Calothamnus quadrifidus*	1-2	red	Aug-Dec
Silky-leaved Blood Flower *Calothamnus sanguineus*	1.5	blood red	Mar-Oct
Wembley Wax *Chamelaucium uncinatum*	3	pink	Aug-Nov
Plume Smokebush *Conospermum incurvum*	0.4-1	white-grey	Jul-Nov
Common Smokebush *Conospermum stoechadis*	1.5	blue	Jul-Nov
Terete-leaved Dampiera *Dampiera teres*	0.2-0.6	blue	Aug-Nov
Southern Diplolaena *Diplolaena dampieri*	2	orange	Jul-Sep



Medium Shrubs (1m - 3m)

Common Name *Botanical Name*	Height (m)	Flower Colour	Flower Time
Coast Hopbush *Dodonaea aptera*	3	green	Apr-Jul
Orange-flowered Eremaea *Eremaea pauciflora*	1.5-2	orange	Sep-Dec
Purple-flowered Eremaea *Eremaea purpurea*	1.5	pink-purple	Oct-Feb
Pink Pokers *Grevillea petrophiloides*	3	pink	Jan-Nov
Honey Bush *Hakea lissocarpha*	3	white-yellow, pink	Jun-Sep
Candle Hakea *Hakea ruscifolia*	3	white	Dec-Mar
Cutleaf Guinea-flower *Hibbertia cuneiformis*	1.5	yellow	Aug-Dec
White Spray *Logania vaginalis*	2.5	white	Aug-Nov
Tangling Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca cardiophylla*	1.5	white	Jul-Jan
Purple Pom-Pom Myrtle *Melaleuca conothamnoides*	0.3-1.5	pink-purple	all year
Oval Leaf Honeymyrtle *Melaleuca pentagona*	0.1-3	pink	Sep-Dec
Coast Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca systena*	1	cream	Sep-Dec
Slender Myoporum *Myoporum caprarioides*	1.5	white	all year
Boobialla *Myoporum insulare*	2	white	Aug-Nov
Coastal Daisy Bush *Olearia axillaris*	2	white-cream	Nov-Jul
Wedding Bush *Ricinocarpos glaucus*	0.3-2	white	Jul-Dec
Shining Fanflower *Scaevola nitida*	1	blue	Aug-Dec
Spiked Scholtzia *Scholtzia involucrata*	1.5	white, pale pink	Dec-Mar
Cockie's Tongue *Templetonia retusa*	2	red	Apr-Sep
Grass Tree *Xanthorrhoea preissii*	3	white	Nov-Jan



Small Shrubs (less than 1m)

Common Name *Botanical Name*	Height (m)	Flower Colour	Flower Time
Dune Moses *Acacia lasiocarpa*	0.5-1	yellow	Jun-Aug
Narrow-winged Wattle *Acacia stenoptera*	0.3-1	cream-yellow	May-Sep
Grass Wattle *Acacia willdenowiana*	0.5	yellow	Jun-Oct
Couch Honeypot *Banksia dallanneyi*	low	gold	May-Sep
Elegant Beaufortia *Beaufortia elegans*	1	purple, pink	Nov-Feb
Aniseed Boronia *Boronia crenulata*	1	pale red	Aug-Oct
Common Brown Pea *Bossiaea eriocarpa*	0.6	brown & yellow	Jul-Oct
Yellow Starflower *Calytrix angulata*	1	yellow	Aug-Dec
Summer Starflower *Calytrix flavescens*	0.8	yellow	Nov-Jan
Pink Summer Calytrix *Calytrix fraseri*	0.6-1	pink, purple	all year
Common Dampiera *Dampiera linearis*	0.5	indigo	Jul-Nov
Yanchep Rose *Diplolaena angustifolia*	1	red	Jul-Sep
Barrier Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa*	low	red	May-Sep
Tar Bush *Eremophila glabra*	0.5-1	orange	Mar-Dec
Seaheath *Frankenia pauciflora*	0.3	white	all year
Yellow Pea *Gompholobium aristatum*	0.7	yellow	Jul-Dec
Purple Heath Pea *Gompholobium confertum*	1	blue-purple	Aug-Mar
Hairy Yellow Pea *Gompholobium tomentosum*	0.3-1	yellow	Aug-Dec
Little Crith *Grevillea crithmifolia*	1	white, pink	Jul-Nov

Small Shrubs (less than 1m)

Common Name *Botanical Name*	Height (m)	Flower Colour	Flower Time
"Seaspray" *Grevillea preissii*	0.5-1	red	Jun-Sep
Spider-net Grevillea *Grevillea thelemanniana*	0.4-1	red	May-Sep
Pink Paper Bells *Guichenotia ledifolia*	0.7-1	mauve	Jul-Oct
Stalked Guinea-flower *Hibbertia racemosa*	0.3	yellow	Jul-Nov
Orange Stars *Hibbertia stellaris*	1	orange-yellow	Aug-Dec
Devil's Pins *Hovea pungens*	1	purple	Jun-Nov
Common Hovea *Hovea trisperma*	0.7	purple	Jun-Sep
White Myrtle *Hypocalymma angustifolium*	1	pink-white	Jun-Oct
Swan River Myrtle *Hypocalymma robustum*	1	pale-deep pink	Jul-Oct
Waldjumi *Jacksonia sericea*	0.6	orange & red	Dec-Feb
Lance-leaved Cassia *Labichea punctata*	1	yellow	Jul-Oct
Free-flowering Lechenaultia *Lechenaultia floribunda*	0.5	pale blue	Aug-Dec
Cushion Bush *Leucophyta brownii*	0.5	yellow	all year
Rough Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca parviceps*	1	pink-purple	Sep-Dec
Pretty Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca trichophylla*	0.7	pink-purple	Nov-Jan
Pixie-mops *Petrophile linearis*	0.7	pink, mauve	Sep-Nov
Pepper-and-salt *Philotheca spicata*	0.6	lilac	Jun-Oct
False Boronia *Phyllanthus calycinus*	1	white-cream, pink	Jun-Jan
Coast Banjine *Pimelea ferruginea*	1	pink	Sep-Nov

Small Shrubs (less than 1m)

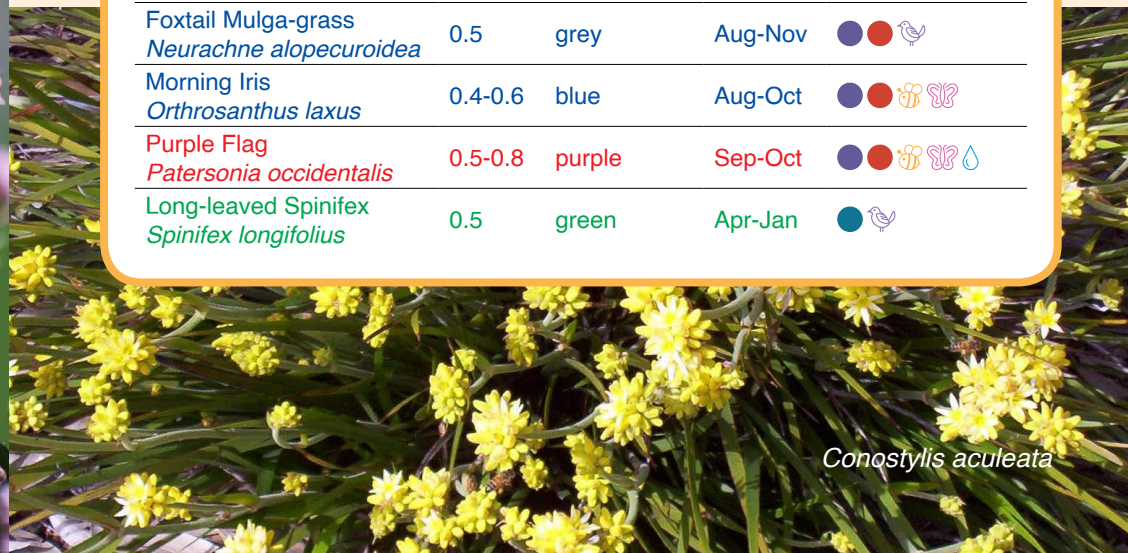
Common Name *Botanical Name*	Height (m)	Flower Colour	Flower Time
Rose Banjine *Pimelea rosea*	1	pale-deep pink	Aug-Nov
Berry Saltbush *Rhagodia baccata*	0.5	red	Mar-Jun
Thick-leaved Fanflower *Scaevola crassifolia*	0.5-0.8	blue	Jul-Feb
Myrtle/Coastal Thryptomene *Thryptomene baeckeacea*	1	pink	May-Oct
Bushy Featherflower *Verticordia densiflora*	1	pink, white	Nov-Jan
Native Rosemary *Westringia dampieri*	0.5	white	Jun-Jan



Pimelea rosea

Perennial Herbs

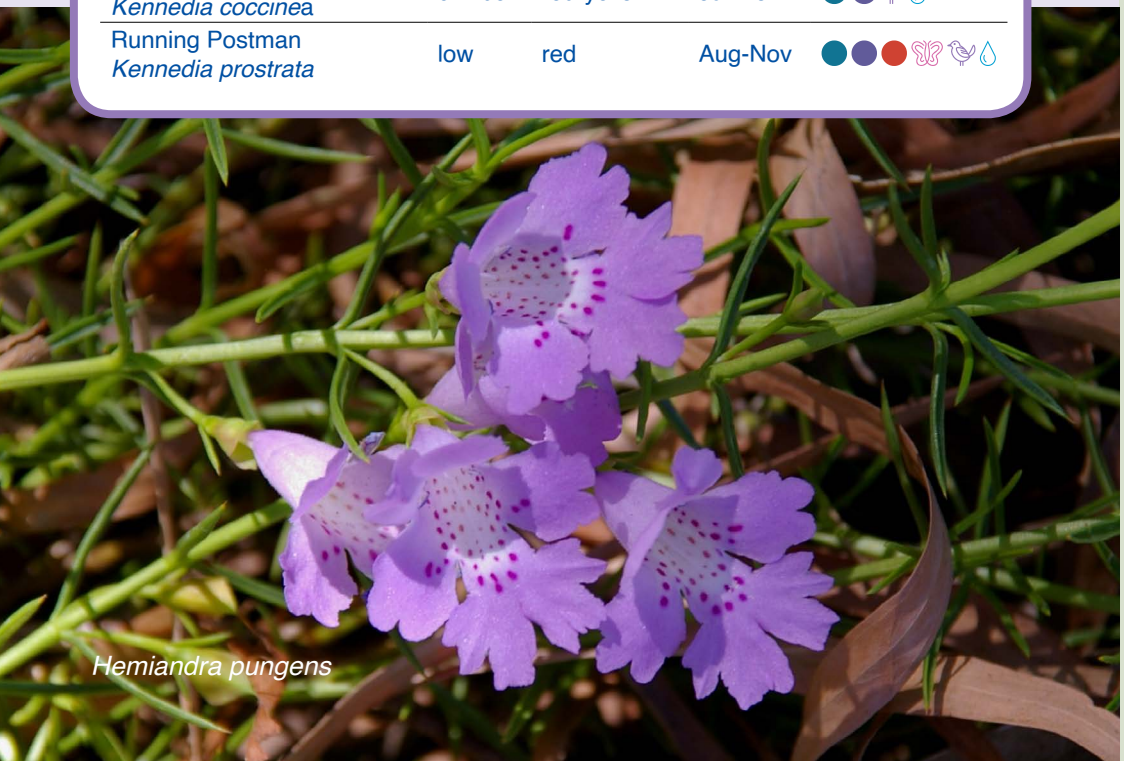
Common Name *Botanical Name*	Height (m)	Flower Colour	Flower Time
Catspaw *Anigozanthos humilis*	0.5	orange	Aug-Oct
Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthos manglesii*	1	red & green	Sep-Nov
Green Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthos viridis*	1	green	Sep-Nov
Feather Speargrass *Austrostipa elegantissima*	2	silver	Aug-Jan
Tall Speargrass *Austrostipa flavescens*	0.5	silver	Sep-Oct
Bearded Speargrass *Austrostipa semibarbata*	0.6	white hairy	Aug-Nov
Spiny Cottonheads *Conostylis aculeata*	0.3	yellow	Sep-Nov
Grey Cottonheads *Conostylis candicans*	0.5	yellow	Aug-Sep
Bristly Cottonheads *Conostylis setigera*	0.3	yellow	Sep-Oct
Blueberry Lily *Dianella revoluta*	1	purple	Sep-Jan
Chocolate Lily *Dichopogon capillipes*	1.5	purple/pink	Sept-Jan
Knotted Club Rush *Ficinia nodosa*	1	brown/ cream	Oct-Jan
Foxtail Mulga-grass *Neurachne alopecuroidea*	0.5	grey	Aug-Nov
Morning Iris *Orthrosanthus laxus*	0.4-0.6	blue	Aug-Oct
Purple Flag *Patersonia occidentalis*	0.5-0.8	purple	Sep-Oct
Long-leaved Spinifex *Spinifex longifolius*	0.5	green	Apr-Jan



Conostylis aculeata

Climbers and Groundcovers

Common Name *Botanical Name*	Height (m)	Flower Colour	Flower Time
Coastal Jugflower *Adenanthos cuneatus*	0.3-1.5	dark red, pink	Jan-Dec
White-flowered Billardiera *Billardiera floribunda*	climber	white	Dec-Feb
Australian Bluebell *Billardiera heterophylla*	climber	blue	Oct-Feb
Native Pigface *Carpobrotus virescens*	0.3	pale purple	Jun-Jan
Small-leaved Clematis *Clematis linearifolia*	climber	cream	Jul-Sep
Common Clematis *Clematis pubescens*	climber	white	Jul-Oct
Native Wisteria *Hardenbergia comptoniana*	climber	purple	Jun-Sep
Snakebush *Hemiandra pungens*	low	mauve	all year
Coral Vine *Kennedia coccinea*	climber	red-yellow	Jul-Nov
Running Postman *Kennedia prostrata*	low	red	Aug-Nov



Hemiandra pungens



Garden Design and Plant Selection Tips

- **Plan on paper:** Map out eating spaces, play areas, paths and utility zones and incorporate these into your garden design
- **Manage views:** Consider how the garden looks from inside the house. Frame good views with attractive plants and use screening plants to hide eyesores
- **Place trees wisely:** Plant trees at least 2m from fences and walls so growth isn't hampered or they don't become a nuisance
- **Prepare the site:** Remove weeds, prepare the soil and install irrigation before planting and mulching
- **Improve the soil:** Add compost and conditioners, test soil regularly and apply mulch after planting
- **Choose plants carefully:**
  - Use native plants suited to your local soil/climate (eg coastal plants will grow inland, but inland plants don't grow well on the coast)
  - Avoid environmental weeds
  - Group plants with similar water, fertiliser and light needs.
  - Check mature size and growth habit
  - Select plants that flower across different seasons
  - Repeat plant themes and use odd-number groupings
  - Layer heights (trees - shrubs - groundcovers).
- **Planting timing:** Plant in late April or May after the first autumn rains
- **Keep your garden evolving:** Review, adjust and add new plants over time.

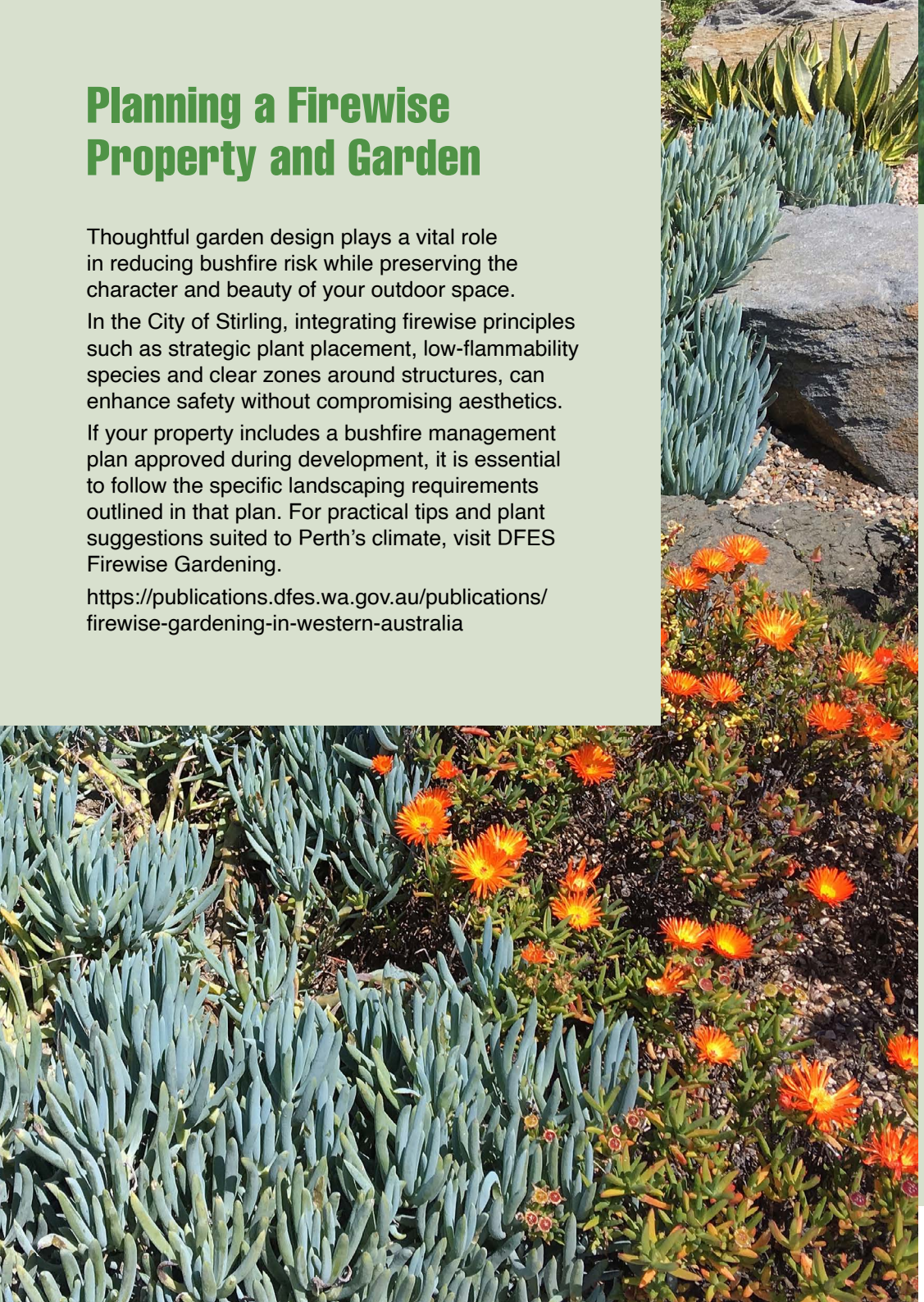
Planning a Firewise Property and Garden

Thoughtful garden design plays a vital role in reducing bushfire risk while preserving the character and beauty of your outdoor space.

In the City of Stirling, integrating firewise principles such as strategic plant placement, low-flammability species and clear zones around structures, can enhance safety without compromising aesthetics.

If your property includes a bushfire management plan approved during development, it is essential to follow the specific landscaping requirements outlined in that plan. For practical tips and plant suggestions suited to Perth's climate, visit DFES Firewise Gardening.

https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/firewise-gardening-in-western-australia





Watering

WA plants are adapted to dry conditions and thrive with minimal water. Overwatering can cause weak growth, fewer flowers and root diseases, while also washing nutrients from sandy soils.

To promote strong, drought-tolerant roots, water deeply but infrequently. Some plants may benefit from occasional summer watering to stay healthy and looking their best.

When to water (always follow water restrictions)

For new plants water:

- Once or twice a week in the first few weeks after planting and during the first 1-2 summers until plants are established (generally from about November-May until the first good rain occurs).

For established plants water:

- When there is a heat wave
- When the soil under the surface is dry
- When there are signs of stress (eg wilting, dull foliage colour, leaf shrinkage).

In general the watering regime for mature plants varies with the soil type, origin of the plant, season and natural rainfall.

What irrigation to use

WA plants like the soil surface to remain dry and many are sensitive to overhead watering (eg sprinklers, misters). Thus the best irrigation to use is adjustable dripper/trickle systems or subsurface irrigation.

Watering tips

- Water in the morning as moisture sitting on plant leaves and stems overnight can cause plant diseases
- Avoid watering only the soil surface layer as this encourages shallow roots making plants more susceptible to drying out and blowing over. Longer deeper watering encourages the growth of deeper, more stable roots
- Use wetting agents if soil repels water
- Use high-flow drippers for thirsty plants (eg Boronia).

*Plants with a WaterWise rating are considered WaterWise by the Water Corporation, meaning that once established in improved soil it will only need watering once a week during summer, or on your rostered watering days and less frequently, if at all, during cooler months.

Fertilisers

Most WA natives don't need fertiliser as they are adapted to low-nutrient soils and excess fertiliser (especially phosphorus) can harm sensitive species like Banksias, Grevilleas, and Hakeas.

When to fertilise:

- At planting (small amount in hole)
- Only in spring if deficiency is visible.

What to use:

- Slow-release organic native fertiliser with low/no phosphorus and low nitrogen
- Seaweed or fish emulsion for plant health.

What to avoid:

- Fertilising sensitive species (Proteaceae family)
- Over-feeding Everlastings (they grow too tall and flop).

Always follow the label instructions carefully.



Grevillea crithmifolia



Hardenbergia comptoniana

Mulching

Good mulch consists of a mixture of different sized materials such as leaves, twigs and bark, lets water easily penetrate through to the soil and prevents evaporation. The mulch materials shouldn't absorb too much water, otherwise they make less available to the plants.

Best mulch:

- Natural leaf litter and groundcovers formed by plants in your garden
- Street tree mulch (remove visible weeds)
- Gravel or crushed brick (great for windy spots).

When to mulch:

- Apply in spring/early summer
- Refresh organic mulch seasonally.

How to mulch:

Apply mulch 5cm thick, keeping mulch away from plant stems. Create a bowl shape around the plant to aid water retention.

Avoid:

- Thick mulch layers (blocks water)
- Raw wood chips or sawdust (tie up nutrients, repel water)
- Soft leafy mulches (break down too fast)
- Packaged mulches high in nitrogen or phosphorus.

References and more information:

- A New Image for WA Plants - George Lullfitz
- Grow With Us - Wildflower Society of WA
- Growing Locals - Robert Powell
- Growing local Plants - www.sercul.org.au/our-projects/fertilise-wise/
- Water Corporation Plants - https://www.watercorporation.com.au/waterwise/waterwise-plants
- DFES - https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/firewise-gardening-in-western-australia
- City of Stirling - https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/waste-and-environment/living-green-program



SERCUL

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

City of Stirling
City of Choice

ALGAE BUSTER
PHOSPHORUS
AWARENESS
PROJECT

Fertilise wise

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of **Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

This booklet was prepared by SERCUL, 2026, with the support of the City of Stirling.