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CONSUMER

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THE CITY OF WEST TORRENS USES

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City of West Torrens

Between the City and the Sea






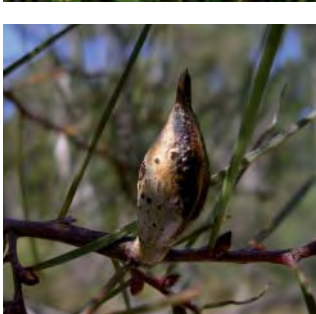


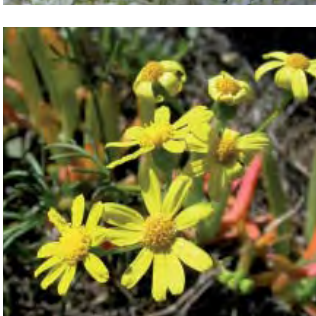
City of West Torrens










Between the City and the Sea

# Native plants of West Torrens



Trees	
	<b>Drooping Sheoak</b> <i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> Height 10 metres  Low maintenance tree with quick growing, grey-green weeping needle-like branches. Wide range of soils. Full sun to part shade. Well drained conditions. Ripening fruit attracts an array of native birds. Is also an important food source for the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo.
	<b>Silver Banksia</b> <i>Banksia marginata</i> Height 3-10 metres  Tall open shrub or small tree. Grows in sandy, well drained soils. Flower spikes produce large quantities of nectar, which attract honeyeaters, parrots and small marsupials.
	<b>Native Apricot</b> <i>Pittosporum phylliraeoides</i> Height to 7 metres  Tall shrub to small tree with graceful drooping branches. Small, attractive flowers present throughout summer. Drought tolerant and hardy. Was popular amongst early European settlers for its upright growth and termite-resistant wood. Fruit attracts honeyeaters, parrots and wattlebirds, which play an important role in the seeds germination.
	<b>Southern Cypress Pine</b> <i>Callitris gracilis</i> Height 5-12 metres  A hardy species which is the only conifer native to the Adelaide Plains. Sandy and limestone soils. Well drained conditions. Full sun. Plant as individual specimens or in groupings. Several species of native parrots are attracted to maturing fruits.
	<b>Swamp Paper-bark</b> <i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i> Height to 30 metres  Medium to large single stemmed tree, suitable for large gardens only. Display of cream-coloured flowers in summer. Full sun, open position, suits most well-drained soils.
	<b>South Australian Blue Gum</b> <i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> Height to 7 metres  Shrub or small tree. Bark is white and papery, often peeling. Flowers white, crowded into clusters at the ends of branches. Flowering in spring to early summer. Usually grows in saline soils.
Shrubs	
	<b>Kangaroo Thorn</b> <i>Acacia paradoxa</i> Height 2-4 metres Width 2-3 metres  Medium sized shrub with prickly thorns along the stems. Clusters of bright yellow flowers from late winter and into spring. Excellent habitat and protection for small birds such as wrens.
	<b>Coastal Wattle</b> <i>Acacia longifolia</i> var. <i>sophorae</i> 2 x 5 metres across  Large, densely foliated spreading shrub with masses of yellow flower spikes in winter and spring. Grows in coastal areas, sandy and limestone soils. Provides shelter for native fauna such as birds and reptiles.
	<b>Cushion Bush</b> <i>Leucophyta brownii</i> Height to 1.2 metres Width 1.2 metres  Dense, low-growing shrub with attractive silver foliage. Masses of small, yellow florets appear in summer. Prefers sandy and clay based soils. Full sun.

Shrubs	
	<b>Round-leaf Wattle</b> <i>Acacia acinacea</i> Height to 2 metres  Elegant, fast growing shrub with an open branching form. Hosts masses of yellow flowers in spring along the entire length of the stem. Can be pruned after flowering to maintain a more compact form. Prefers an open, sunny position in most well drained soils.
	<b>Silky Tea Tree</b> <i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i> Height to 5 metres  Very hardy shrub, suitable as a hedge or screen planting. Flowers solitary, or two or more together at the ends of short branches. Performs best in moist, shady areas.
	<b>Coast Daisy-bush</b> <i>Olearia axillaris</i> Height 2 metres  Aromatic shrub with grey-green foliage. Coastal form, preferring well drained conditions. Seeds are a food source for parrots.
	<b>Sticky Hop Bush</b> <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> Height to 4 metres  Hardy shrub with glossy green leaves and crimson winged seeds that appear after flowering. Full sun to part shade. Well drained soils. Prune to maintain shape. Seeds are an important food source for bird and parrot species.
	<b>River Bottlebrush</b> <i>Callistemon sieberi</i> Height to 3 metres  Fast growing, densely-foliaged, hardy shrub with cream ‘bottle-brush’ flowers from spring to summer. Sheltered sunny position. Most well drained soils. May require additional water over summer. Prune to promote dense growth.
	<b>Erect Hakea</b> <i>Hakea carinata</i> Height to 2 metres  Twiggy, open shrub with white Grevillea-like flowers in winter and spring. Good habitat and food source for honeyeaters and insects, with seeds attracting the Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo.
	<b>Seaberry Saltbush</b> <i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> Height 1.5 metres Width 1.5 metres  Hardy, dense spreading shrub with crimson berries present throughout summer. Drought tolerant. Prefers sand or clay soils. Important food source for native birds and lizards.
	<b>Sweet Bursaria / Christmas Bush</b> <i>Bursaria spinosa</i> Height 2 to 3 metres  Hardy, upright plant. Glossy green leaves, with displays of fragrant white flowers in spring and summer. Full sun. Well drained or sandy soils. Low water requirement once established.
	<b>Variable Groundsel</b> <i>Senecio lautus</i> Height 0.5 metres  Small shrub with large, bright yellow daisy-like flowers and dark green leaves that are lobed in shape. Easily grown from cuttings or fresh seed. Prune after flowering to maintain compact form.

Shrubs	
	<b>Claspng Goodenia</b> <i>Goodenia amplexans</i> Height to 1 metre  A spreading, medium-sized shrub with densely clad stems. Yellow, five-petalled flowers predominately occur throughout spring. Very tolerant of dry clay soils and harsh conditions. Important species for native insects and butterflies.
	<b>Twiggy Daisy Bush</b> <i>Olearia ramulosa</i> Height to 1.5 metres  A species native to the Adelaide Plains. Compact form with grey-green foliage and small white flowers. Full sun to part shade. Moist soils. Prune to maintain shape.
	<b>Common Fringe-myrtle</b> <i>Calytrix tetragona</i> Height 2-3 metres  Medium sized, open shrub with small leaves. Masses of starry, pale pink flowers in spring. Prefers an open position in well drained soils. Believed to be an important food plant for the Painted Lady Butterfly.
	<b>Native Stork's-bill</b> <i>Pelargonium australe</i> Height to 0.3 metres  Large leaved, bright green herb. Pale pink flowers are dotted with red-flecks, and evident throughout late spring and early summer. Dies back after flowering. Prefers lighter soils. Seeds are a food source for ant and bird species.
	<b>Austral Trefoil</b> <i>Lotus australis</i> Height 0.3 – 0.5 metres  Small, spreading herb with signature displays of white-pink pea flowers throughout spring. Grows well in drained soils. A fast growing perennial. Larval food plant for the Pea Blue and Common Grass Blue butterflies.
	<b>Lavender Grevillea</b> <i>Grevillea lavandulacea</i> Height 0.5 metres  Small, open shrub with light pink to crimson red flowers in spring. Grows in full sun to dappled shade, in well drained or dry soil types. Drought and moderately frost tolerant. Important source of nectar for native insects and honeyeaters.
	<b>Dwarf Hakea</b> <i>Hakea rugosa</i> Height to 1 metre  Twiggy, open, intricate shrub with white Grevillea-like flowers in winter and spring. Needs well drained soils.
	<b>Native Bluebell</b> <i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i> Height 0.4 – 0.9 metres  Perennial herb with violet to blue (occasionally white), bell shaped flowers at the end of long, slender stalks. Best planted in groups. Long-flowering period, extending from late spring to autumn. Makes ideal container plant. Requires moist, well-drained soils.
	<b>Common Everlasting Daisy</b> <i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i> Height 0.4 metres  Variable perennial herb. Clusters of yellow button ‘everlasting’ flowers mainly in spring. Leaves are long, silvery-grey and covered in fine hairs. Once widespread, this species is now restricted to a few locations around the foothills and coast. Attractive plant for garden settings and for cut flower arrangements. Can be pruned after flowering to encourage new growth. Believed to be an important food plant for the Painted Lady Butterfly.



Native plants of West Torrens

This brochure highlights local native plants that once inhabited the Adelaide Plains and would have occurred in the areas now occupied by suburbs in the City of West Torrens. These locally indigenous plants are experiencing a resurgence in popularity as more people become aware of their benefits. Indigenous plants are adapted to local climatic conditions and soils. They rarely require supplementary water once established and provide an important source of food and habitat for wildlife. These plants also produce unique, beautiful flowers throughout winter, spring and summer.

Climbers



**Native Lilac**  
*Hardenbergia violacea*  
Height to 1.2 metres  
Width 1.2 metres  
  
Attractive climber which displays masses of violet or white pea flowers in winter. Was thought to be a common species across the Adelaide Plains prior to European settlement, excluding coastal areas.

Groundcovers



**Running Postman**  
*Kennedia prostrata*  
Width to 2 metres  
  
Drought tolerant groundcover. Prominent scarlet pea flowers with yellow centre in spring. Full sun to part shade. Most soils. Larval food plant for Pea Blue Butterfly.



**Muntries**  
*Kunzea pomifera*  
Width to several metres  
  
Small creeping shrub enjoys sandy soils and full sun. Can be a challenge on other soil types. Attractive white flowers in spring and summer. Fruits eaten by birds and lizards.



**Climbing Saltbush**  
*Einadia nutans*  
Height 0.3 metres  
Width to 1 metre  
  
Delicate groundcover. Frequently scrambles onto adjacent plants. Small, bright red berries which sometimes appear orange or yellow in saline soils. Found across the Adelaide Plains, this versatile species grows well in full sun or part shade. Tolerates dry conditions.



**Creeping Boobialla**  
*Myoporum parvifolium*  
Height 0.1 – 0.3 metres  
Width to 3 metres  
  
Prostrate groundcover with semi-succulent foliage, forming large mats. Asymmetrical flowers up to 1cm across are dappled with purple flecks. Flowers appear in spring, and are lightly scented. *Myoporum* species can be found in a variety of soil types, however *Myoporum parvifolium* is considered a coastal specialist. Berries are an important food source for birds.



**Lagoon Saltbush**  
*Atriplex suberecta*  
Height 0.4 metres  
  
A sprawling herb that branches from the base and is suitable for most soil types. Leaves are thin and narrow.



**Berry Saltbush**  
*Atriplex semibaccata*  
Height 0.5 metres  
Width 1 metre  
  
Resilient groundcover, forming a dense mat. Leaves are branched, grey-green and slightly toothed. Small, inconspicuous flowers are evident in summer. Fruit is a small, fleshy red berry. A rapid coloniser, this species also acts as a ground stabiliser. Grows well in sun or semi-shade. Tolerates dry soils.



**Pale Fanflower**  
*Scaevola albida*  
Width 0.4 metres  
  
Attractive prostrate plant with bright green, semi-succulent leaves. Displays of distinctive fan-shaped, lilac flowers present throughout spring and summer. Often forms a mat on the ground up to 40cm across. Can be grown in full sun to part shade in a wide range of soils.

Groundcovers



**Garland Lily**  
*Calostemma purpureum*  
Height 0.3 metres  
  
A relative of the common garden daffodil, this attractive bulb provides a display of pink flowers throughout summer. Flowers are showy and occur in clusters of drooping bell-like umbels. Strappy, deep green leaves emerge during winter. Wide range of soils. Plant in groups for visual impact. Prefers open conditions.



**Ruby Saltbush**  
*Enchylaena tomentosa*  
Height 0.3 metres  
Width to 1 metre  
  
Small, soft stemmed shrub which forms a dense mat once established. Foliage is mid-green to grey-green in colour. Small, fleshy berries evident throughout summer. Berries ripen to an attractive scarlet red, yellow, orange or hot pink. Hardy species, ideal for use as a groundcover. Tolerates sun or part shade, and saline conditions.

Tussock plants and grasses



**Black-anther Flax-lily**  
*Dianella revoluta*  
Height to 1 metre  
  
Occurring across the Adelaide Plains, this is a hardy evergreen plant. Compact clumps of strap-like leaves, with electric blue flowers in spring. Part shade to full sun. Most soils. *Dianella revoluta* is the inland species.



**Short-stemmed Flax-lily**  
*Dianella brevicaulis*  
Height to 1 metre  
  
Hardy evergreen species, bearing clumps of strap-like leaves with a prominent vertical vein. Abundant bloom of small, electric blue flowers develop in spring. Flowers have five petals, with black anthers. Prefers a well lit position, but will grow in semi-shade. *Dianella brevicaulis* is a coastal specialist, and can be distinguished from *Dianella revoluta* as flower stems are shorter than the leaves. Fruits are eaten and distributed by birds and lizards.



**Knobby Club-rush**  
*Isolepis nodosa*  
Height 0.6 – 1.5 metres  
  
Attractive rush with strong form. Characterised by russet coloured seed heads, which are held below the tip of the leaf. Important sand stabiliser in coastal environments. Tolerates a broad range of conditions, including sand and clay based soils, mild salinity and wet or dry soils. Grows in sun or semi-shade.



**Sea Rush**  
*Juncus kraussii*  
Height 0.3 - 1.2 metres  
  
Needle-leaved tussock with flowers that are brownish-red from October to January. Grows in most soils. Important habitat plant for bird species.



**Hard Mat-rush**  
*Lomandra multiflora*  
Height 0.5 metres  
  
Hard strappy leaved tussock plant with inconspicuous brown-yellow stalked flowers. Excellent habitat plant for several species of native butterflies, whilst its seeds are a source of food for lizards. Full sun to part shade.



**Kangaroo Grass**  
*Themeda triandra*  
Height 1.5 metres  
  
Attractive tall, drought tolerant tussock grass which was once widespread across the Adelaide Plains. Has also been found to occur along parts of the coast. Showy display of russet coloured seed heads throughout summer. Most well drained soils. Plant in groups for maximum visual impact.

Tussock plants and grasses



**Spiny Flat-sedge**  
*Cyperus gymnocaulos*  
Height 1.5 metres  
Width 1.5 metres  
  
Fast growing species occurring in riparian areas or where conditions are periodically damp. Spiny leaflets emanate around a centre of tight russet coloured balls at the end of long stems. Clumping habit. Plant individually or in groups approximately 60cm apart. Important soil stabiliser.



**Feather Spear-grass**  
*Stipa elegantissima*  
Height 0.4 metres  
Width 0.3 metres  
  
Tall slender grass forming clumps with flowering spikes. Plant in small groups for the best effect of the unusual flower heads. Very hardy once established.



**New Holland Daisy**  
*Vittadinia* species  
Height 0.3 metres  
  
Small perennial daisy to knee-high. Short-lived, although prolific seed production ensures the succession of this species. Several species occur across Adelaide. Leaves are small, lobed and grey-green. Attractive, daisy-like lilac flowers (sometimes white). Pale, fuzzy seed heads are notable after the flowering period in spring. Prefers drier, well-drained soils. Excellent species for cottage-style gardens.



**Wallaby Grass**  
*Austrodanthonia* species - formerly *Danthonia*  
Height: 0.1 - 1 metre  
  
Small to medium clumping grass. Leaves are either short, or long and drooping. Can be distinguished from other grasses by fine hairs at the stem joint. Fluffy white flower heads evident throughout spring and summer. Seeds up to 1.5cm long, with a distinctive central awn. Acts as a soil stabiliser in dry conditions. Sun or part shade. One of about fifteen species found across Adelaide. Larval food plant for butterflies. An important food source for kangaroos and wallabies.



**Lemon-scented Grass**  
*Cymbopogon ambiguus*  
Height 0.5 – 1.5 metres  
  
Elegant grass with long, thin, arching leaves. Flowering, tawny spikes up to 1.5m, with the main plant reaching 0.5m tall. Leaves have a strong, lemon-like scent when crushed. Flowers are long and branched, with tawny seed heads. The flowering period chiefly extends throughout spring and summer. Spectacular garden plant that will self-seed, but is not overly invasive. Tolerates dry conditions and rocky, well-drained sites. Requires full sun. Suited to clay and loam soils. Similar to another locally indigenous species, *Cymbopogon obtectis*.



**Round-leaf Pigface**  
*Disphyma crassifolium*  
Width 1 - 2 metres  
  
Attractive groundcover with succulent foliage, spreading up to several metres once established. Bears pink, daisy-like flowers throughout spring and summer. Colonises damp, saline areas. Prefers full sun. Coastal species.



**Coast Tussock Grass**  
*Poa poiformis*  
Height 0.2 metres - 0.9 metres  
  
Medium clumping grass with dense foliage, making it an ideal landscaping feature. Leaves are thin, with tawny flower-heads during spring and summer. Predominately occurs in coastal habitats, but can also be found inland on the Adelaide Plains. Tolerates a wide variety of conditions. Sun or part shade. Important larval food plant for butterflies.

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Photographs courtesy of: Caroline Taylor - Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, Jason Tyndall - City of Holdfast Bay, and State Flora.