Plants suitable for growing in the Surf Coast Shire

**SHRUBS**

**Musk Daisy Bush**
Osiria argophylla

- Shrub or small tree to 6m. Small white flowers in floods Sept.-April. Most conditions.

**Dusty Daisy Bush**
Osiria picturipetala

- Small shrub to 2m. Daisy white, blue or mauve flowers Oct.-March. Likes semi-shade, well drained acidic soils and pruning.

**Snowy Daisy Bush**
Osiria nivea

- Medium shrub to 2m. Profuse clusters of white flowers Aug.-Jan. Likes moist, shaded, well drained habitats and pruning.

**Dusty Miller**
Spirea lactiflora

- Medium open shrub to 3m. White flowers Sept.-Nov. Tolerates most habitats. Needs drainage.

**Pink Balls**
*Pultenaea tunnelata*

- Undershrub to 1m. Flowers are purple to blue, and sweetly perfumed. August to December. Most to dry conditions.

**Other trees and shrubs not pictured include:**
- *Furze* *Hakea*
  - *Hakea ulicina*
  - Medium shrub to 3m. Creamy, scented flowers Aug.-Nov. Tolerates most habitats. Understorey. Pruning helps.
- *Tree Everlasting* *Olearia ferrogyna*
  - Open shrub to 3m. Small white flowers in large clusters. Nov.-Feb. Requires moist soil and full sun. Sensitive to dry conditions.
- *Hazel Pomaderris* Pomaderris asper
  - Fast growing shrub to 3m. Pale flowers in large clusters Nov-Feb. Coastal and salt tolerant. Most soil, semi-shade, sensative to dry conditions.
- *Coastal Pomaderris* Pomaderris penustussa
  - Shrub to 2m. Small white to pink flowers in clusters. Oct-Nov. Coastal and salt tolerant.
- *Common Hovea* Hovea heterophylla
  - Small shrub to 3m. Blue purple flowers Aug.-Nov. Tolerates free-draining soils, shade or sun. Pruning helps.
- *Silver Bankia* Bankia marginata
  - A hardy plant most soils not water logged Flowers Yellow spikes Sept-April Coastal. [See picture on the front page]
- *Common Boobailla* Myoporum insulare
  - Dense small tree pale green leaves Flowers white with purple tips May-Nov. Tolerant of most soils to semi shade. Fire retardant. Drought resistant.

**About this guide**

The guide will assist you in choosing indigenous plants that are suitable for use in local urban landscapes. These plants have been chosen as they are hardy, drought resistant, easy to grow and available most of the time from within our community. Many of these plants attract and shelter local birds and animals, and the use of these plants can result in a beautifully environment friendly garden.

The selection of species identified represents a small proportion of the indigenous species found in the Surf Coast Shire. For further information on local indigenous species contact:
- Surf Coast Shire Council
  - Phone: 5261 1085
  - www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- West Coast Indigenous Nursery
  - Phone: 5263 3841
  - www.otwaysindigenousnursery.com.au
- ANGAIR
  - Plants are available at the ANGAIR Wildflower Show, the East Anglesea Riverbank Market, Aireys Inlet School Fair and at the ANGAIR Wildflower Market, Aireys Inlet School Fair and at the ANGAIR Wildflower Show. Bring a complete weed and you get a free plant. A maximum of 5 applies.

**Photography**

Most of the photographs shown have been donated and used courtesy of the Buninyong Plant Directory, The University of Melbourne. Other photographs have been provided by the Australian National Botanic Gardens, and from the ANGAIR collection.

**Other Grasses not Pictured include:**
- *Austrostipa pubinodis*
  - 0.2m wide.Bluish-green
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- *Microlaena stipoides*
  - Tufted perennial grass with grey-green blades and sun.

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  - www.angair.org.au

**Indigenous Vegetation**

**What is indigenous vegetation?**

Indigenous vegetation comprises the species of plants that grow naturally in a particular area.

**Why is indigenous vegetation important?**

Indigenous vegetation is important because:
- provides habitat for native fauna - our birds, our mammals, our reptiles, our amphibians, our insects, our spiders ...
- is part of our botanical heritage

**How can indigenous vegetation be preserved, nurtured and restored?**

Two main ways are:
- removing environmental weeds from our own properties and from reserves, roadsides, bushland ...
- planting species known to grow naturally in this area.

**What plants are indigenous?**

It is important to plant indigenous species because they:
- maintain the unique local flora character of the area
- preserve the biodiversity of the region for future generations
- provide suitable habitats for native fauna and flora
- help the movement of pollinators between remnant patches of bush vegetation
- extend the beauty of the local natural surroundings and reserves into home gardens
- provide food for the local fauna in our wilds and do not need fertilisers
- need little or no additional water once established
- do not become environmental weeds.

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**Other Grasses not Pictured Include:**
- *Wallaby Grass* Austrodanthonia Caespitosa
- *Austrostipa pubinodis*
  - Medium, erect tussock with fine, bright green leaves and flower stems to 50cm high. Flowers are often purplish.
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Silver Wattle
Acacia dealbata
Spreading shrub to small tree. 3m – 30m tall with grey-green 1m-like foliage. Tolerant of a wide range of conditions, but prefers moist, well-drained soil.

Blackwood
Acacia melanoxylon

Messmate Stringybark
Eucalyptus oblonga
Tall tree 4-15m, stringy bark. Flowers Dec.– March. Hardy, all soils, bird-attractive.

Drooping She-Oak
Allocasuarina verticillata

Red Ironbark
Eucalyptus coryana

Black sheoak
Allocasaurina flindersiana
Pyramidal shaped tree, fast growing, 8m x 5m. Flowers May–Jun. followed by Cones. Well-drained soil, full sun.

Common Correa
Correa elata
Variable shrub, cream to red flowers, March–Sept. Adaptable, tolerates drought and full shade.

Soft bush-pea
Pultenaea mollis

Common Heath
Eracodium impressum
Small shrub of less than 1m. The colour ranges from white through various shades of pink to bright red. Flowers Feb–Nov. Requires well-drained sandy soil in semi-shade or full sun. It is hard to grow as mycelial symbiotic soil conditions are required. Victoria’s State emblem.

Clover Tree
Gleditsia triacanthos
Tall shrub 1.5m, protuse yellow pea flowers. April–Nov. Likes acidic shaded areas. Needs pruning.

Slender velvet bush
Laurophyllum baueri

Silky guinea flower
Hibbertia sericea
Dwarf shrub 1m. Yellow flowers August - December. Most soils semi-shade. Good drainage. Hard to grow.

White Correa
Correa alba
Compact shrub to 0.8m. Blue, mauve, purple flowers Oct–Dec. Tolerates most soils, sand, sun or shade.

Paternios occidentalis
Dense tufts of leaves to 0.8mm. Blue, mauve, purple flowers Sept–Dec. Tolerates wet areas, any soil type, sun or shade.

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