

Wildlife habitat plants

Most Australian plants provide valuable resources for wildlife. The best habitat plants provide some food, shelter and nest sites for a range of nectar, fruit, seed, leaf and insect (and other prey) eating animals such as birds, mammals, lizards, frogs and insects and other invertebrates.

Important general groups

The top habitat plant groups which provide many resources for a wide range of Australian animals are Eucalyptus, Angophora, Melaleuca, Acacia, Banksia, Leptospermum and Kunzea.

Shelter plants

Many Acacia (wattles), Leptospermum (tea-trees), Melaleuca (paperbarks), Bursaria (blackthorn), Hakea, Ceratopetalum (Christmas bush), Kunzea, Clematis, Pandorea (wonga-wonga vine), Rubus (native raspberry) and any dense and/ or spikey planting.

Insect-pollinated plants

Acacia (wattles), native peas (e.g. Dillwynia, Hardenbergia, Kennedia), Leptospermum (tea-trees), native daisies (e.g. Olearia) as well as Hibbertia, Clematis, Pomaderris.

Nectar plants

Banksia, Grevillea, Hakea, Correa, Lambertia (mountain devil), Callistemon (bottlebrush), Eucalyptus, Angophora, Melaleuca, Xanthorrhoea (grasstrees) and others with big, showy flower heads, Epacris.

Seed plants

Eucalyptus, Angophora, Acacia (wattles), Casuarina and Allocasuarina (she-oaks), Glochidion (cheese tree), Lomandra, native grasses (e.g. Themeda, Danthonia), rushes (Juncus) and sedges (Gahnia).

Fruit plants

Acmena, Syzygium (lillypillys), Ficus (figs), Alphitonia, Trema, Cissus (native grape), Persoonia (geebungs), Dianella (native lily), Breynia, Stephania, saltbushes and many rainforest or wet forest species.

Native bee plants

Persoonia (geebungs), native peas (eg. Hovea, Pultenaea), native daisies (e.g. Helichrysum), heath plants (e.g. Epacris, Leucopogon), Goodenia, Tristaniopsis (water gum), Leptospermum.

Native butterfly plants

Native peas, native daisies, native grasses (eg. Poa), sedges and rushes (e.g. Carex, Juncus), Lomandra, Dianella, Bursaria (blackthorn), Macrozamia (burrawang), Dodonaea, Zieria, Correa, Indigofera, Cupaniopsis (tuckeroo), Melaleuca and mistletoes.

With other habitat components such as clean water, logs, rocks and leaf litter, native plants can be used to recreate wildlife habitat and attract native birds, lizards, butterflies and other fauna to parks, gardens, school grounds and industrial sites. Some of these plants are not easily available but community interest may encourage nurseries to grow them.

Indigenous plants that have no documented use to fauna are still important. Once studied, it is very likely they will be found to provide valuable resources for wildlife.

Lists above compiled by Danie Ondinea 2002

Wildlife habitat plants of the Wollli Valley area

For more detailed information about native plants that are indigenous or locally native to the Wollli Creek Valley, and their role in relation to a range of native animal species, see our publication *Wildlife Habitat Plants of the Wollli Valley* (2004)