



LANDSCAPE PLANT SELECTION LIST

RECOMMENDED PLANTS FOR LANDSCAPE PROJECTS ADJACENT TO STORM WATER DETENTION BASINS IN THE COPPER COAST COUNCIL REGION



Drawing courtesy of The Morton Arboretum

GROUNDCOVERS

Hardenbergia violaceae

False sarsaparilla.

Trailing plant covering at least 1 square metre. Various forms are available. Climbing forms may take over other plants.

“Pea” flowers in winter and spring are usually violet in colour but pink, white and other colours are sometimes found. Flowers better in full sun. Tolerates most soils and coastal conditions. Many cultivars are available and cultivars grown to suit the conditions where the plant is required should be sought.

Helichrysum apiculatum

Prostrate herb with glaucous leaves and heads of bright yellow flowers in summer. Grows in sunny positions in most soils. Makes an excellent ground cover for banks when planted at 70cm centres.

Kennedia prostrata

Running Postman

Bears scarlet flowers in spring and early summer.
Prefers a well drained position but is quite adaptable.
Plant at 1.5 metre centres.

Myoporum parvifolium

Creeping Boobialla

Prostrate plant with trailing stems to 1 metre. Bears white, star-like flowers in spring and summer. Plant at 1 metre centres for dense coverage. Suitable for sloping banks and large open areas. Frost hardy. Prefers well drained sites but will grow in heavy soils. Purple and green forms are available.

Rhagodia nutans

Prostrate, spreading plant with glaucous appearance. Flowers are insignificant. Fruits are bright red or yellow. Makes a good groundcover for banks when planted on mass. Very hardy plant in most situations. Plant at 60cm centres.

TUFTED PLANTS/GRASSES

Cymbopogon ambiguous

Lemon-scented Grass. Fast growing blue-grey grass with fluffy silver flower heads. Will self seed when established. Height up to .8 metre. Can be cut back to improve shape.

Dieties spp

Attractive, clump forming perennial with light green sword shaped leaves. Yellow flowers with brownish spots throughout spring and summer. A fast growing, spreading plant for most situations and soils. This plant is not a native and care must be taken not to let the plant escapee to the native environment.

Dianella revolute

Native Flax Lilly

Flax like leaves, attractive in rockeries and water features. Flowers are bright blue with yellow anthers. Bright blue berries are also a feature of these plants. They grow up to 1 metre in height. Most conditions are suitable for these hardy plants. Dwarf varieties are available.

Isolepis nodosa

Knobby Club Rush

Tufted rush to 1 metre. Forms clumps of upright often arching, dark green stems. Ideal for planting around ponds. Brownish, globular flower heads produced through the year. Tolerates salty spray, waterlogged and saline soils. A tough hardy Australian native.

SHRUBS

Alyogyne huegelii

Open shrub to 2 metres in height. Mauve or Cream Hibiscus like flowers in spring and summer. Hardy plant suitable for most soils.

Native Hibiscus

Westringia fruticosa

Rounded shrub to 2 metres in height with a spread up to 2 metres.

White flowers for most of the year. Suitable as a hedge plant.

Very hardy in almost all situations including coastal sites. Prefers full sun.

Coastal Rosemary

Westringia ‘Wynyabbie Gem’

Hybrid of *Westringia fruticosa* and *Westringia eremicola*.

Dense shrub to 1.5 metres in height with a spread of 1.5 metres.

Flowers are blue-mauve with brownish-orange spots, mainly in spring but occasionally over most of the year. Sunny open sites are desirable and most soils are suitable. Pruning is required for a compact form.

Hebe spp.

Ideal in tubs, rockeries and most garden situations. Can be clipped to form a small hedge or interplanted with other small shrubs.

Frost hardy, ideal in coastal situations.

Tolerates full sun to part shade.

Prune after flowering. Many species and varieties available.

Acacia hekeoides

Rounded shrub to 3 metres high.

Bears yellow flowers in winter and spring.

A very hardy species. Medium to well drained light to heavy soils.

Partial or full sun. Withstands extended dry periods.

Useful for controlling soil erosion due to soil binding fibrous roots.

Calothamnus lateralis

Small spreading shrub to 1m high x 1-2m width with long slender leaves.

Clusters of red flowers spring/summer/autumn.

For a wide range of soils (moist in winter) in dappled shade to part sun.

Callistemon viminalis ‘Captain Cook’

Medium shrub to 2 metres in height with a spread of 1 metre.

Foliage is dark green in colour. Leaves are needle in shape.

Red flowers most of the year.

Will grow in most soils. Adaptable to most drainage conditions.

Requires full sun. Moderately resistant to drought, frost and pollution.

Wind tolerance – can be placed in the front line of a windbreak.

TREES

Melaleuca incana

Grey Honey Myrtle

Small to medium tree usually of a weeping growth habit to about 3 metres in height.

Small, bottlebrush shaped flower spikes are cream or white and occur in spring.

Prefers a well drained sunny position.

Allocasuarina verticillata

Drooping Sheoak

Round-headed, small-to-medium-sized tree that will grow in a variety of sites. It is well-known as a tree tolerant of sandy, dry soils, and coastal salt spray. Although known as a coastal plant. Also grows successfully on the heavy, cracking clay soils.

Has been used extensively on difficult sites both in Australia and abroad. It is extremely heat-tolerant, and will grow, once established, with minimal additional irrigation.

A. verticillata looks poorly-grown, but this appearance will change with age.

Eucalyptus gracilis

White Mallee

Small to medium tree with slender twisted habit. A good tree for dry areas. Grows to 12 metres in good conditions.

Cream to white flowers in winter. Good for windbreaks.

Geijera parviflora

Wilga

Small tree to 12 metres with spreading crown and pendulous habit. Bears small cream flowers.

Grows well in drier areas and seems to tolerate poor drainage.

The plants included in this guide are native and non-native plants.

The majority of the plants can be considered “water wise” and will contribute to a sustainable landscape.

The criteria for plant selection was that the majority of the plants would grow in heavy soils that are commonly found at detention basin sites.

The list includes plants will survive as;

- **Top level, dam surrounds**
- **Mid level, dam banks**
- **Lower level, lower dam banks, may be submerged**

The list is not extensive and is only intended as a guide to assist with plant selection for landscape projects adjacent to storm water detention/retention basins or other open water storage facilities.