



Preferred Planting Guide



Crotalaria cunninghamii - Birdie-Birdie Bush

Floral Emblem of Port Hedland

Revised - 2022

Preface

This Preferred Planting Guide has been produced by the Town of Port Hedland to be used in conjunction with the Landscape Guidelines to assist in the design, construction, and maintenance of landscape infrastructure in the Town precincts.

Both State and Local Government Policies, Strategies and Statutory Guidelines provide the over-arching framework for landscape design and the Scope, Objectives and Design Principles of the Town of Port Hedland Landscape Guidelines direct the selection of plants in this guide.

The plants in this guide have been selected for their ability to thrive in the harsh Pilbara climate. Plants that require continual water and that have high maintenance needs throughout their life have not been included.

All other species selections submitted for approval will be considered by the Town.

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Trees :

Acacia citrinoviridis - Pilbara Jam



Also known as Black Wattle this attractive, weeping tree is endemic to the Pilbara and found on the banks of creeks and rivers and the floodplains of major rivers in fine textured soils over gravel and pebbles. It grows to a height of between 5 – 10m with a distinctive fibrous, brown bark and beautiful silvery, sickle- shaped grey-green or blue-grey phyllodes (leaves) that form a dense crown with a spread of up to 10m. It usually has a single, straight trunk with a DBH of up to 30cm and the flowers which bloom from April through June are held in long cylindrical clusters.

It has a fast growth rate and a long-life span and is drought, salt, and wind tolerant and is suitable for a wide range of soils. It is a bushy shrub when young, becoming a tree at about 3m. Suckers may have to be removed to keep the plant tidy and it coppices well. It benefits from additional watering during establishment.

It is ideal for screening, shelter and shade and is suitable for parks, ovals open areas and large gardens. Use as a specimen plant for its attractive foliage and form. It is used for mine rehabilitation and erosion control.



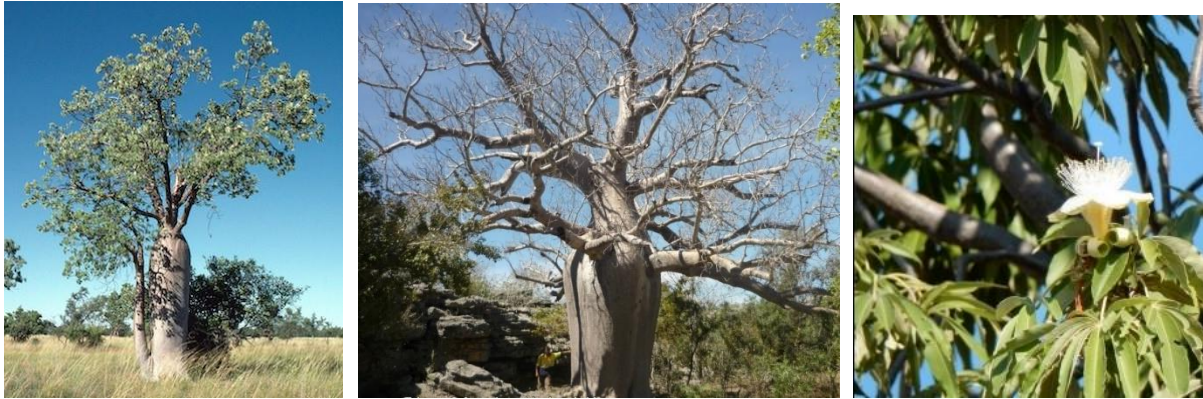
Acacia pruinocarpa - Western Gidgee



Black or Western Gidgee is a thornless tree or shrub endemic to the Pilbara region. This is an attractive species with an upright habit up to 10m in height with a width ranging from 3 to 6m and a trunk up to 6m and 25cm DBH. The wood is dark ebony with a high density. It is usually multi stemmed or with multiple branching from about 1m and has long, leathery, grey-green to blue-green phyllodes and masses of golden flowers in globular heads. It is one of the few Pilbara Wattles that flower over the summer months. It is suited to a wide range of soils but prefers light to medium soils and succeeds in low fertility. It is drought, fire, and wind tolerant.

It has a slow growth rate and will sucker from the roots which may need to be removed to keep it tidy. It coppices well and can be uplifted to produce a shade tree. It is ideal for large screening and shade and can be used as a specimen tree for its beautiful silvery foliage that contrasts well with other green plants. It is more suited to large gardens, open areas, and parks and ovals. It is susceptible to borer attack especially under irrigation.

Adonsonia gregorii - Boab



Occurring mainly in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, the Boab is a prehistoric species outstanding for its huge bottle-shaped trunk that is filled with soft, fibrous wood enabling it to store water. It is deciduous, losing its leaves in winter when it is dormant. It is a slow grower with some trees taking 15 to 20 years to fruit. It can live for hundreds of years and will reach to a height of 5 – 15m with a trunk circumference of up to 20m. The large, showy, cream flowers occur during the summer and autumn months. They open early in the evening and are pollinated that night, lasting only a day or two before falling.

It will grow in a wide variety of well drained soils, preferring sandy or sandy loam in a sunny, open position and likes to grow as part of a family. It is drought resistant and only requires water about once a month during the growing season which is in the summer months.

Casuarina equisetifolia - Coastal She-Oak



Native to Northern Australia the Coastal She-Oak is an attractive, evergreen tree growing to a height of 10 – 35 m with an open canopy and a spread of up to 10m and a DBH of .5 – 1.5m. The trunk is usually erect with dense, rough bark. It needs full sun, and well drained, light, textured, sandy or gravelly soil with a PH in the acid to neutral range. Unlike most other species of *Casuarina*, it is monocious with male and female flowers produced on the same tree. The cones are 2-3cm long, 1.5-2cm wide and contain seeds with small thin wings.

It is typically found along the coastal foreshores and has pendulous drooping branchlets with greatly modified leaves with the leaf visible only at the nodes. It is a hardy, fast growing, sun loving, pioneer species that tolerates salt and poor soils, and is found naturally along sandy coasts. They can be used as soil improvers as their roots fix nitrogen.

It is suitable for parks and gardens on poor infertile soils and along foreshores and is tolerant of saline soils, saltwater spray, and strong winds.

Cassia fistula - Golden Shower Tree



This beautiful exotic tree will grow quickly up to a height of 15m with a spread of 15m and a DBH of 1m in 8 -10 years in good growing conditions. It has large leaves and is fully or semi deciduous during dry periods. It will produce its flowers, followed by leaves, and then hard seed pods up to 30cm long which can be found hanging on the tree at most times during the year. The yellow flowers are arranged in large pendulous sprays blooming in late spring/early summer. It has a straight trunk up to approx. 5m and spreading branches which droop as the tree grows producing an open, oval or vase-shaped crown.

The Cassia has moderate tolerance to salt, wind, and drought. The root structure is not invasive; however it produces root suckers freely which may need to be removed to keep the tree tidy and it will coppice vigorously. It needs pruning to develop a strong structure and for pedestrian and vehicular access underneath.

Ideal as a specimen tree for its exceptional beauty while in flower and for its lime green leaves contrasting with the darker green of other plants. Suitable for parks, open spaces, and large gardens. The hard, very large seed pods can cause damage to mowing equipment.

Corymbia candida - Desert Ghost Gum



With a moderate growth rate, this handsome, stately, tall tree reaches a height of between 10 and 20m with a spread of up to 10m. It is endemic to the Pibara area and found on pebbly plains in red soils, sand, clay, loam and gravel in low lying areas of the landscape. It has a strikingly smooth, white, powdery bark with brown flakes. It has a weeping form with an open crown made up of dull grey-green to pale green leaves and masses of flowers clustered next to the leaf axils.

As a corymbia the tree forms a lignotuber and is suited to a wide range of soils. It is virtually pest and disease free, requires very little fertilising and can be tip-pruned for shaping while young. It requires full sun, very little water after establishment, and is cyclone resistant.

It is an ideal shade tree in parks, large gardens and open spaces.

Corymbia ficifolia - Red Flowering Gum



Corymbia ficifolia is from open forest on the far south coast of WA and will grow up to 15m in good growing conditions with a spread of about 3 – 5m with a round, moderately dense crown. This slow growing tree will take about seven years to flower from seed and 15 – 20 years to reach its full size. It prefers infertile, sandy soils but is readily adaptable to other soil types provided it is not exposed to sustained tropical damp. It has an upright trunk and branches with a straggly form but can be lightly pruned after flowering to encourage a tighter shape. It needs to be pruned when young in order to develop a strong structure and should be grown with a single leader.

It is rather hit and miss in this area due to the extreme heat and needs a moderate amount of water. A position with some midday shade and shelter from hot north westerly winds would offer the best results. The wood is weak and susceptible to breakage in strong winds.

This plant does not breed true from seed – the only way to be certain it will have red flowers is by propagating by cuttings.

It is a great specimen tree with its striking bright red flowers and is suitable for use as a street tree on verges, and in parks and large gardens although does require some water to keep it looking good.

Corymbia opaca - Desert Bloodwood



An endemic, slow growing, long-lived tree of the desert, this tree will rarely become a mallee and is found on sand plains, stony plains, drainage lines, and low rises in red sandy and loamy soils and powdery red earth. It will grow from 3 to 15m in height, forming a lignotuber and with dark brown, thick, rough, and flaky bark that helps protect it from fire. It has dull green to yellow-green leaves, and masses of creamy-white flowers in clusters at the ends of the branchlets from April through August.

Tolerating drought and poor soil, the Bloodwood gets its name from its stunning dark red sap which resembles blood. It will drop some branches during harsh times to reduce the energy it needs to survive. It has large, thick, strong roots that store water.

This tree has been a supermarket, pharmacy, and hardware store for desert Aboriginal people. The plump, green grubs from the gall, and from under the bark can be eaten. Sugarbag (honey) from the hives of stingless, native bees can be collected. A sweet drink can be made from the flower nectar. Carrying bowls can be made from the boules on the bark. Medicine can be made from the red sap. Drinking water can be collected from the hollows and roots. The red sap was also used to tan kangaroo skin water bags. The dead wood is one of the most favoured firewood, burning with a steady, hot flame. The fruit capsules are used as necklaces and toys.

Corymbia zygophylla - Broome Bloodwood



Sometimes a mallee and rather straggly, this Bloodwood has rough red-brown or grey-brown bark and will reach a height of up to 9m with a spread of up to 6m. It forms a lignotuber and has dull, grey-green, leathery, oval to spear-shaped leaves, and masses of creamy-white flowers in short clusters at the ends of branches. It is suited to a wide range of well drained soils but prefers sandy soils. It is virtually pest and disease free and requires little or no additional fertiliser after planting. It can be lightly tip pruned to get a desirable shape and to promote flowering.

It likes to grow in the full sun, is tolerant of drought, and is wind resistant. It can be used for shade and screening in parks, open spaces and ovals.

Cupaniopsis anacardioides - Tuckeroo



This is a fast growing, evergreen tree native to eastern and northern Australia and is extensively used as a street tree in Queensland. The Tuckeroo will also perform well in harsh conditions. It will grow up to 10m in height with a spread of up to 7m and a DBH of .5m. It has a round form with a slender trunk and a wide spreading, very dense crown with branches reaching to the ground. The base of the tree is usually flanged and the smooth grey or brown bark has horizontal lines. The leaves are bright green and the white flowers form on panicles from May to July. The fruit is an orange to yellow capsule with three lobes and a glossy brown-black seed inside each lobe. It prefers light to medium soils that are rich in organic material and has a non-invasive root system. It can be quite heavily pruned to shape and uplifted for pedestrian and vehicular access.

Hardy, drought and salt resistant once established, it is well suited for use as a feature tree or for shade and screening in parks, ovals and open spaces. It needs to be watered well during establishment and fertilised in spring with a controlled release native fertiliser.

Delonix regia - Poinciana



Native to Madagascar, the Poinciana is noted for its fern-like leaves and a flamboyant display of orange-red flowers over summer. It will get to a height of between 5 and 12m with a spread that is usually wider than it is high. It has a spreading, umbrella-shaped crown with horizontal branches and a trunk that can grow over a meter in width.

It requires a tropical climate but can tolerate drought (once established) and salty conditions. It prefers an open, free draining, sandy or loamy soil, but does not tolerate heavy clay soils. It will flower profusely when kept slightly dry. It has a large, buttressed bole and an invasive, shallow root system which can cause damage to paths, masonry etc and also competes successfully with shrubs, weeds etc.

It is deciduous in the dry season but each tree will have its own time in which it will flower and produce a full canopy of leaf. Large, hard, dark brown seed pods up to 40cm in length fall to the ground in Spring creating a hazard when mowing.

It is a useful shade tree with it's dense foliage and is very attractive in full flower.

Eucalyptus alba - White Gum



This eucalypt is native to the Kimberly region. It will grow to a height of anywhere between 5 and 18m with a spreading crown of between 5 and 15m. The trunk has a smooth, pinkish-red to white or cream powdery bark, is often bent, and will grow up to 60cm at DBH. It also forms a lignotuber. The flowers are a creamy-white colour, occurring in clusters from May to September. The leaves are dull to slightly glossy green, lanceolate to broadly lanceolate in shape and produce an open canopy with dappled shade.

It is often deciduous during the drier months preceding the wet season and likes heavier soils along watercourses and seasonally wet depressions. It needs a position in full sun and will succeed in a wide range of well drained soils with a neutral Ph and low to moderate fertility.

Eucalyptus alba is an attractive shade tree with a moderate growth rate but needs a moderate amount of supplementary watering to achieve this in the Pilbara climate.

Eucalyptus victrix - Coolibah



This species is endemic to the Pilbara region, found on floodplains, flats, and creeklines in clay loam and sand, and thrives in harsh conditions. It is a graceful, open, spreading tree which will grow up to 10m in height and 10m in width. Forming a lignotuber, it has a stunning smooth, powdery, white bark, dull green leaves and masses of small, creamy-white flowers in short clusters that bloom from November to March.

It will tolerate a wide range of soil types but prefers well drained soils in full sun. The roots are shallow and spread rapidly as the tree grows. It is drought and wind tolerant but benefits from additional watering during establishment. Relatively pest and disease free, it can be affected by scale insects if stressed.

With a moderate growth rate, this eucalypt will benefit from light pruning when young to encourage a compact shape and has a long life span. It coppices readily.

Ideal as a shade or screening tree it can also be used as a specimen tree for the contrast in colour between its bark and leaves and other garden plants.

Eucalyptus socialis - Red Mallee



Another Pilbara native, this tree is known as a mallee tree due to its multistemmed form with the stems springing from an underground lignotuber which retains water and nutrients for regrowth after fire and heavy grazing. It will grow to a height of 5m and a width of 5m under ideal conditions.

Its natural habitat is on stony screes, rocky outcrops, and flats in loam and limestone, although it will thrive in most well drained soils with low nutrients in full sun. It requires little or no additional fertiliser after planting and will benefit from tip pruning when young to produce desired shape and promote flowering.

Good for low shade and screening it is virtually pest and disease free and has a moderate growth rate. It has rough, grey bark at the base becoming smooth at the branchlets and sheds in long ribbons. The leaves are thick and spear-shaped and the masses of flowers which bloom from July to September are creamy-white on short clusters.



Hibiscus tiliaceus rubra - Cottonwood



Although not originally an Australian native it is now naturalised and is a common coastal plant in eastern and northern Australia. With a height of 10m and a spread up to 10m this is a fast growing tree that can be pruned to form either a shrub or a single stemmed tree and is used in landscaping for shade, screening, and specimen trees.

The large heart-shaped leaves change from red through to maroon and rich green as they mature, and the bright yellow flowers turn a pink-maroon at the end of the day before they fall from the tree.

This tree needs a position with full sun to part shade and requires moderate watering. It will tolerate most soil types including clay and saline soils and withstands exposed, salt-laden, windy sites, making it ideal for hedging in coastal areas. Regular pruning and sucker removal is necessary to maintain desired shape and to shorten branches which become brittle with age. The tree will live up to about 70 years.

Jacaranda mimosifolia - Jacaranda



Jacaranda mimosifolia is a deciduous, sub-tropical tree native to South America and is regarded as an invasive species in parts of Queensland where it can out-compete native species. Its mature size is approx 10m in height with a spread of about 8m but it can grow up to 20m tall and is fast growing.

It is a very elegant tree with smooth, grey bark that tends to become scaly with age, and soft green fern like foliage that turns yellow in Winter before shedding. Flowering occurs in Summer when purple, bell-shaped blooms cover the canopy. The branches are upwardly ascending to slightly arching and produce an open, rounded canopy that provides shade in Summer.

This tree needs to be grown in full sun to promote flowering and will tolerate drought once established, but will need additional water during its establishment period. Prune when young to form one central leader for strength and stability but avoid pruning after that as the tree will be forced into growing vertical suckers. Seasonal pruning should be limited to removing only broken, dead or diseased branches.

It is susceptible to attack by aphids and scale insects particularly when under stress. The dropped flowers and leaves become smelly and slippery.

Khaya senegalensis - African Mahogany



This African native will grow to between 15 and 30m high and can have a DBH of up to 1m. It has a fast growth rate, a straight trunk, and will buttress with age. The dark grey to grey-brown bark has small, thin flakes or scales. The colour of the scales varies from red, dark pink to bright red and exudes a red sap. It is a deciduous tree with the leaves arranged in a spiral formation clustered at the end of branches. It has a full, rounded crown which produces good shade. The small, white flowers are borne in clusters and are sweet scented and the fruit changes from grey to black when ripening.

It requires full sun to semi-shade and moderate water. The seedling develops a strong, deep tap root during its first year and is drought tolerant and resistant to flooding once established. It coppices well and can be uplifted up to 15m.

It is recommended that it be located away from infrastructure due to its invasive root system.

Melaleuca argentea - Silver Cadjeput



This handsome tree will grow to a height of up to 18m with a spread of up to 12m. Sometimes with several main branches it will flower as a shrub. It has decorative, papery bark and a weeping crown of attractive, pendulous, soft, silvery leaves. From July to November the masses of cream flowers grow in a cylindrical spike resembling a bottle brush and are honey scented bird attractors.

It is a Pilbara native found along watercourses and swamps in sand or clay. Although it prefers moist, rich, sandy sites it will grow in a wide variety of well drained soils. It has a fast growth rate and a long life span and is salt tolerant and wind resistant.

The lower branches can be pruned to accentuate the white, papery bark. It may benefit from extra water in the dry season but it is recommended not to plant it near infrastructure due to its invasive root system.

Melaleuca leucadendra - Weeping Paperbark



Also known as Fine Leaf Paperbark and Weeping Tea-tree this *Melaleuca* is endemic to the Pilbara and will grow up to 40m tall although a height of 15m with a spread of 10m is more common. The straight, cylindrical trunk can be up to 1m in diameter with papery, thick and pale spongy bark. It is an evergreen tree with the smaller branches having a pendulous or weeping habit and the leaves are a bright to dull green. The green to cream to white flowers bloom from March to October.

Found mainly on river flats, coastal plains or seasonal swamps it tolerates poor soil although it prefers a moisture retentive neutral to acid soil. With a moderately fast growth rate it requires at least 50% sun. It tolerates drought and inundation by salt or fresh water and stands up very well to cyclones and forest fires.

Melaleuca viridiflora - Broad-leaved Paperbark



A small, erect or straggly tree from 3 to 10m in height with a spread of four to six metres, this *Melaleuca* is found throughout north tropical Australia along streams, in swampy areas and often in dense stands in open woodlands where the land may be seasonally flooded. The bark is grey to cream, fibrous, and in papery layers and has slightly weeping foliage. The leaves are broad, oval, stiff, thick, smooth and greeny-bronze to dull green. The flowers are usually greenish-cream but a small percentage of plants produce red to pink blossoms. These are now cultivated.

This paperbark is adaptable to a wide range of soils and conditions but does particularly well on heavy clays which are waterlogged in the wet. It needs full sun to flower well but will grow in semi shade. It has an open canopy which makes it ideal for orchids and is drought tolerant once established and tolerant of salty winds although the red flowering variety can be sensitive to wind.

It may be pruned lightly after flowering to promote a compact habit and healthy new growth. The root system is not invasive and it makes an attractive evergreen screen.

Millettia pinnata - Pongamia / Indian Beech



An extremely attractive screening and shade tree the Pongamia is native to Australia. It will grow to a height of 15 to 25m and a DBH of 50 to 80cm with a short bole and a drooping or spreading habit with a broad, dense crown. Sometimes briefly deciduous when flowering, it is a species of tree in the pea family and fixes nitrogen in the soil. It has dense, glossy green leaves and highly perfumed pink/white/purple flowers blossoming throughout the year.

This tree is well suited to intense heat and sunlight, and its dense network of lateral roots and its thick, long taproot make it drought tolerant. It can also withstand long periods of inundation as long as it has at least 2 to 4 months of dry conditions.

The Pongamia is a fast growing tree that will flower after about four years. It likes full sun to part shade and will tolerate saline soils and is cyclone resistant. It does not do well on dry sands but will happily grow in sandy soils and swelling clay soils.

When planting as a shade or ornamental tree it may need to be uplifted to a suitable height. It will produce root suckers which may need to be removed.

Mimusops elangi - Spanish Cherry



This elegant shade tree is native to Northern Australian coastal and near coastal areas and will get to a height of 15m and a spread of 10m with a DBH of 1m. The bole is often short and divided into several large main branches but it is sometimes branchless for up to 15m and will sometimes buttress up to 2m high. It prefers a deep, rich loam but adapts to a variety of soils. With a moderate growth rate it thrives in areas of seasonal wet and dry conditions and grows best in a sunny position but is shade tolerant, retaining a full crown under fairly dense shade.

The leaves are oval and light green when young becoming dark, glossy green. The flowers are white, star shaped, and sweetly fragrant and blossom from January to September and are followed by edible berries which are green when young, becoming orange when ripe with yellow pulp and a large seed.

Mimusops elangi is tolerant to salt spray and saline soils and is cyclone and termite resistant. It tolerates inundation for up to 2 months, however needs moderate water when conditions are dry.

This tree has a conical shape when young and a dense, bushy, rounded crown when mature.

Owenia reticulata - Pundul Tree / Desert Walnut



This endemic tree of the Great Sandy Desert varies in size and will grow from 4 – 14m tall with a spread of up to 10m. It has a slow growth rate and a long life span. Found on stony ridges, red sand dunes and plains, it needs well drained sandy or stony red soils. It is an interesting, sometimes gnarled tree with a straight trunk, dark, corky bark, and a dense, spreading canopy of dull, dark green rather large stiff leaves.

This is a dioecious species with the male and female flowers on separate plants. The flowers are small and white-green growing in slender sprays at the ends of branchlets. Pendulous clusters of large, round fruits 4cm in diameter with a reddish, thin flesh follow.

This tree is virtually maintenance free, although patience is needed to see it grow to maturity.

It is suitable to grow as a specimen plant or as a wind break and for shade.

Peltophorum pterocarpum - Yellow Poinciana



Native to Northern Australia, this is a handsome, upright, spreading tree with a moderately dense, umbrella shaped crown. It has a fast growth rate and will grow up to 20m in height with a 20m spread and a DBH of up to 1m although rarely grows more than 10m under cultivation. Preferring light to medium free draining soils it will tolerate moderate levels of soil salinity and high alkalinity. It is tolerant of strong winds but will not grow in the shade.

As a legume, it has a deep root system, and the strong surface roots will lift pavement. The trunk is sturdy with smooth, grey bark, contrasting with the rusty red stems and twigs. The dark green, feathery leaves provide a softening effect for the tree's large size and create good shade. Semi-deciduous, the canopy is blanketed by bright yellow flowers on upright pannicles about 45cm long with rust coloured buds. The flowers exude a delicious grape like perfume and are followed by seed pods up to 10cm long which ripen to a bright, red wine colour and are very hard.

This tree needs extra water during it's establishment, but after that is drought tolerant requiring a dry period of 1 – 3 months. Pruning at any early age will create a well formed tree suitable for landscaping and for shade, however may be too large for most back yards.

Tabebuia rosea - Pink Trumpet Tree



Tabebuias come from the tropical rain forests of South America. There are many different sizes, colours and forms to choose from. They need deep, humus-rich soil with good drainage and high humidity to do well. They are tolerant of a wide range of soil types from acidic to alkaline. The tree grows best in open partial shade to full sunlight, with some shelter from wind to protect the flowers. Once established, it has good drought tolerance.

They will tolerate saline soils and salt laden spray but the branches are often broken by strong winds. They usually have a straight bole which is sometimes buttressed, but some types are more like large shrubs with multiple main stems. They can be pruned to shape during dormancy.

Tabebuia palmerii - Pink Trumpet Tree



Tabebuia argentea - Silver Trumpet Tree



Trumpet trees make an ideal patio, specimen or lawn tree. They can be kept in a container for a number of years until they become too large and are a medium to fast growing species. They don't have invasive roots, however the dropping leaves and flowers become slippery on pavement.

For most of the year the trees are covered in leaf providing dappled shade and will drop most or all of their leaves during the dry season just prior to flowering making the flowers appear even more spectacular during late Winter or Spring. Restricting water for 6- 8 weeks before Spring will encourage leaf drop and produce a heavier show of flowers.

Tabebuia chrysotricha - Golden Trumpet Tree



Tamarind indica - Tamarind Tree



Tamarind is an evergreen, leguminous tree bearing edible fruit that is indigenous to tropical Africa. It is a long-lived, slow growing tree which will grow between 12m and 18m tall with a spread of up to 12m.

The single, central trunk has dark grey, rough, fissured bark, and the graceful branches droop down as far as the ground. This tree can be pruned to shape and to promote density. The crown has an irregular, vase shaped outline with dense foliage. At night the leaflets close up. The rather inconspicuous flowers are red and yellow and elongated and are followed by an edible pod which matures to a brown or reddish brown.

Tamarind prefers clay, loam, sandy, and acidic soil types, and has a high resistance to drought and salty winds. It needs full sun and loves heat. Once established it needs no watering.

Tamarind is susceptible to pests like scale insects, mealy bugs, aphids and borers. In diseases it is affected by root rot, sooty mould and leaf spot.

The fruit is used for fresh consumption and for the preparation of juices, sauces, jams, beverages and syrups. Tamarind pulp is used in the preparation of many Southern Asian cuisines and curry recipes.

Small Trees :

Acacia aneura - Mulga Wattle



This endemic species is a shapely tree to between 4m and 6m in height with long, thin, silvery-grey to blue-grey phyllodes and bright yellow flowers in short, cylindrical spikes. The trunk is usually short, fissured and sometimes twisted. It has a moderate growth rate and will live for up to 50yrs. Tolerant of a wide range of soils, including shallow and rocky soils, it prefers sandy soils with good drainage. Waterlogging will damage the extensive lateral root structure in the top 30cm of soil and the very deep tap root. It needs full sun and is very drought tolerant and is virtually pest and disease free.

Acacia coriacea - Weeping Dogwood/Mulga



A handsome, spreading endemic tree or sometimes shrub with graceful pendulous branches and foliage. It usually has just one or two main trunks growing up to about 8m with a bushy crown of silvery-grey-green phyllodes. The young new stems are yellow-green and the flowers which often occur all year round are pale yellow. It has a moderate growth rate with a long life span and prefers a sandy loam without lime in full sun. Overwatering can cause collar rot but it is very drought tolerant and can regenerate after fire from its extensive and deep root system. It can be uplifted and lightly pruned to shape and is virtually maintenance free.

Acacia cyperophylla var. *omearana* - O'Meara's Minni Ritchi



A rare Pilbara native that will grow to between 4m and 10m, this is a shapely tree that divides at or near ground level into a few main branches. It's distinctive, slender, pendulous branches produce a crown of between 4m to 6m. It has long, slender, green, cylindrical phyllodes and yellow flowers in dense, cylindrical spikes. Well drained sandy or rocky soils in full sun are its preference and it is very drought tolerant. The orange to reddish-brown bark on the trunk and upper branches continually peels in narrow strips which curl back on themselves to form scrolls down the stem. The lower branches can be pruned to reveal the stunning bark. This tree only occurs naturally at Marble Bar and Nullagine and between Wiluna and Onslow and is listed as Priority 1 on the Declared Rare and Priority Flora List.

Acacia tumida - Pindan wattle



Growing to a height of up to 8m and with a well developed canopy spreading up to 4m, this Pilbara native is a decorative, open, spreading tree or shrub. It has a fast growth rate and a short life span of between 3 and 10 yrs. The lower bark is dark and ruptured with the upper bark smooth, white, and sometimes waxy, while the showy, bright yellow flower spikes contrast well with the sickle shaped, blue-green leaves. It needs full sun and will thrive in shallow, skeletal or sandy soils and once established needs no water and is very drought tolerant. The root system is wide and shallow and competes heavily with other plants. Spectacular when in flower, it makes a good specimen tree and is ideal for screening.

Brachychiton australis - Broad Leaved Bottle Tree



Endemic to inland areas of northern Queensland and the Northern Territory, this deciduous tree will grow to approximately 5m – 8 m tall with a conical shape and a spread of approximately 3m – 4m. The growth rate is slow with the characteristic bottle shaped trunk developing in about five to eight years, and the tree living for up to 150 years.

They have a non-invasive root system, putting down single or multiple tap roots that look like a carrot with some surface feeder roots. It does best in moderately fertile soils and tolerates both acidic and alkaline soils in a sunny or partly shaded position.

It will lose its leaves for a brief period in late winter before blooming with white-cream star shaped flowers on a bract about 15cm long followed by new leaf growth.

This *Brachychiton* will tolerate saline soil, and is resistant to pollution, coastal exposure, drought and tropical heat. It will benefit from extra water in the hot summer months while it is actively growing.

Brachychiton gregorii - Desert Kurrajong



An attractive, semi-deciduous, endemic tree growing up to 12m tall with a spread of up to 5m. It has a decorative green-grey, smooth, bottle-shaped trunk with appealing bright green, shiny leaves and cream-yellow/green and red bell-shaped flowers in drooping clusters. The fruit is an interesting boat shape with bright yellow seeds. It has a moderate growth rate and is long-lived, but can be slow to establish, after which it is drought tolerant. It will grow in full sun to part shade and likes well drained red or sandy loam soils.

Callistemon citrinus - Bottlebrush “Kings Park Special”



A relatively compact, free flowering, evergreen tree or shrub up to 4m tall and 3m across, this cultivar was raised at the botanic gardens in Perth from a seed with unknown origins. Fast growing with a long life span, it is suitable for most soils including very poor ones. It has non-invasive roots, is suitable for coastal areas and will grow in full sun to part shade and being drought resistant, needs little watering after establishment. It forms a graceful weeping shape if left to grow as a small tree or can be pruned to create a screen or hedge. The spectacular bright red flowers provide a valuable food source for native birds, insects and small mammals.

Codonocarpus cotinifolius - Desert Poplar



Rarely growing to a height of up to 8m this obconical or pyramidal shaped tree is endemic to the Pilbara and has a fast growth rate but a short life span. It has highly decorative smooth, cream-pink-grey bark, appealing poplar-like, broad, leathery, blue-green leaves and interesting yellow-green, bell shaped flowers followed by ribbed fruits. The male and female flowers are found on separate trees. This tree needs full sun and well drained soil preferring red sand, loam or gravel. Older plants are susceptible to borers and it is poisonous to stock. It makes an ideal feature tree with its distinctive form and attractive leaves.

Corymbia hammersleyana - Pilbara Bloodwood



This attractive and interesting small tree and sometimes a mallee is an endemic species. It forms a lignotuber and will grow to about 8m in height and 6m in width. It has rough, pale brown to yellow-brown or red-brown bark and an open canopy made up of dull green to yellow-green spear shaped leaves. Masses of creamy- white flowers appear in clusters at the ends of the branchlets from March to August. It has a moderate growth rate and a long life span preferring well drained red sandy, loamy or stony soils and needs full sun. Drought tolerant, it is virtually pest and disease free and requires little additional fertiliser after planting.

Grevillea wickhamii - Wickhams Grevillea



Also a Pilbara native, this is a beautiful erect to slender tree, or multi-stemmed shrub, growing up to 6m high and 2m across. This tree has a fast growth rate with a moderate life span. It is very hardy and prefers well drained, red sand, loam or siletel soils in the full sun. It is ideal for use as a specimen tree for its attractive, holly-shaped, blue-grey-green foliage and colourful flowers from April till October. The leaves have sharp spikes, and there are a number of subspecies which have flowers in a wide range of colours including red, pink, orange and yellow. Lightly prune to maintain a more compact shape. In very poor soils fertilise with a low phosphorus, native blend, slow release fertiliser at planting and annually. Older plants become suscetible to borers.

Lysiphyllum cunninghamii - Jigal Tree / Native Bauhinia



Growing up to 6m tall this deciduous small tree or shrub is widely spread around the Broome district. The leaves have two lobes which are joined together like a butterfly's wings. Usually with a short stout trunk, its outer branches hang down, giving it a weeping appearance. New flushes of leaf are a colourful red and pink and the masses of flowers are bright red and full of nectar. The seed pods are large and reddish-brown, becoming darker as they mature. They will grow in a variety of soils including black soil, sand, stony ground and pindan. They like full sun and once established need no additional water.

Plumeria species - Frangipani



A fast growing, small tree, native to the Tropical Americas, Frangipanis usually reach a height of 4m to 8m tall and just as wide. This is an excellent shade tree when uplifted with its dense canopy. The large obovate or teardrop-shaped, dark green, glossy leaves grow in clusters at the ends of widely spaced, thick, fleshy branches. It has fragrant, yellow centred white flowers borne in clusters at the ends of the branches on a long, thick stalk. Tolerant of salt and wind, they are drought resistant once established and need reasonably fertile, well drained, light, sandy soil and at least six hours of sun. There are at least five species and many different subspecies and cultivars to choose from.



Plumeria rubra - Red Frangipani



The most common frangipani is the *Plumeria rubra* and it comes in many colours, from white to cream to yellow, oranges, pinks (both pale pink and hot pink), reds, and even deep cerise. They also come in multiple colours such as apricot and yellow in the one flower, and *rubra* has the most fragrant flowers. The flowers have five medium sized, oval shaped petals. The leaves are long and oval and have a pointed end. The leaves of *rubra* are quick to drop off in cool weather. *Rubra* will grow 5m tall and as wide with a spreading canopy.

Plumeria obtusa - Singapore White / Singapore Pink



One of the most popular frangipanis is the *Plumeria obtusa* which come in shades of white and pink. The petals on a *Plumeria obtusa* flower are rounder than that of the *Plumeria rubra* and they tend to bend over backwards at the very tips. It is also known as the evergreen frangipani as they will keep their leaves all year round as in this climate. The leaves are a glossy, dark, green, long and oval. The ends of the leaves, however, are more rounded than those of *Plumeria rubra*. It is a smaller plant than *Plumeria rubra* and grow only to the size of a small tree or large shrub. *Obtusa* has a more dense habit than *rubra*.

Plumeria stenophylla - Frangipani



Plumeria stenophylla has leaves that are very long and thin. The flower petals are also long and thin, and have a wider gap between each petal than a *Plumeria rubra*. As with *Plumeria obtusa* they are generally only available in shades of white or cream. It is a well shaped bushy shrub with a long lasting flower display and will grow to about 2.5m.

Plumeria pudica - Everlasting Love



Plumeria pudica are very easy to grow and bloom heavily for a long time. Like *P. obtusa* they can be evergreen in tropical climates. Its leaves are dark green and a unique spoon shape (long and thin, and then widen out towards the tip like the shape of a soup spoon). The flower petals are similar to *P. obtusa* and are more rounded than *P. rubra* but don't arch back like *P. obtusa*. They are generally only available in shades of white and cream, however, a pink cultivar has been developed. It will grow up to 5m but can be kept pruned to a bushy shrub if required.



Shrubs :

Acacia anicistrocarpa - Fitzroy Wattle



Native to the Pilbara this leguminous shrub requires a sunny position in well drained, light to medium soils of low fertility and has a moderately fast growth rate and a moderate life span. It will grow to a height of between 2m and 4m with a similar width. The bark is grey with long fissures near the base of mature stems but otherwise smooth. The bright olive-green phyllodes have a linear to very narrow elliptic shape and the flower spikes are scattered over the plant with golden flowers that are not densely arranged. This species is used extensively in the Pilbara for land rehabilitation.

Acacia bivenosa - Two-Nerved Wattle



This is an endemic, bushy shrub with a rounded to spreading habit normally growing from 1m to 3m in height and up to a width of 3m. The bark is smooth and light to medium grey and the phyllodes are grey-green to blue-green with the new growth a bright green. Flowers appear in a dense display of golden-yellow globular heads from May to October. It needs full sun and prefers well drained, sandy soils in an open position. Unwanted branches should be cut to the base and it is susceptible to white ant and mealybug attack. It will regenerate from the base after fire.

Acacia colei - Coles Wattle



An endemic, erect to spreading shrub, growing to between 2m and 4m, this Acacia may also develop into a small single-boled tree up to 7m in height in fertile soil. It is a fast growing but short lived species, (about 6-10 yrs) growing in a variety of well drained soil types. It has attractive, large, softly hairy, silvery green-grey-blue foliage and, from May to September, yellow flowers in large, showy, cylindrical spikes. It is a colonising species and needs full sun while also drought, wind and heat resistant. Ideal for screening and as a wind break, it is used for dust control.

Acacia maitlandii - Maitland's Wattle



Another Pilbara native this species will normally grow to a height and width of about 3m and although normally erect and rather straggly it will grow bushy in well watered sites. The bark is grey, thin and smooth and the branchlets red-brown. New shoots are light green and the phyllodes are short and rounded with a sharp point on the tip. The lovely golden-yellow flowers in globular heads appear from May to August. *A. maitlandii* require a position in full sun and in well drained sandy soils. It can regenerate from woody root stock after a cool fire but is killed by hot fires. A moderately lived plant, it is drought, heat, and wind resistant.



Acacia monticola - Curly-Bark Wattle



Curly-bark Wattle is an interesting species endemic to the Pilbara region normally growing with multiple stems from 2m to 5m high and up to 4m wide. It has a spreading, open crown of small rounded phyllodes and masses of yellow flowers in globular heads from April to August. The dark brownish-red bark, which ages to grey, continually peels in small ribbons that curl back on themselves producing a decorative effect. It requires a sunny position in well drained soil, growing well even when the soil fertility is very low. It is relatively fast growing with a moderate life span.

Acacia orthocarpa - Pilbara Weeping Wattle



A graceful and wispy Pilbara native, this acacia will usually grow as a bushy, multi-stemmed shrub to about 3m tall and wide. Sometimes it will grow as a small tree, single-stemmed, or sparingly branched at the base, with an open, umbrella-shaped crown. It has a fast growth rate and a moderate life span. The phyllodes have a long, slender, wispy form and masses of showy, yellow flowers appear from April to November. It requires full sun and is suitable for a variety of well drained soils but prefers sandy and rocky sites. It is virtually pest and disease free and can be pruned lightly when young to form a more compact shape.

Acacia pyrifolia - Ranji Bush



Growing as a shrub, with up to six main branches from the base, or sometimes a tree to 4m in height and 3m in width, this Pilbara native can have a straggly or dense habit. It is a prickly shrub with short spines arising from the stem junctions and sharp points on the tips of the pear-shaped, blue-grey to grey-green phyllodes. The bright yellow flower clusters are globular in shape and produced on short stalks in long racemes of about twelve flower clusters and usually occur in winter through to mid spring. It requires well drained soil in full sun and is drought tolerant and has a fast growth rate with a moderate life span.

Acacia sclerosperma - Limestone Wattle



Also known as Silver-bark Wattle this Pilbara native has a fast growth rate and a moderate life span and will grow to a height of 4m and a width of 5m with a dense, rounded habit. It has fine, bright green to blue-green phyllodes, and from April to October, pale yellow flowers in globular heads followed by long, bean-like, woody pods. Suited to a wide range of soil types, it prefers well drained alkaline and rocky sands in a sunny position. It is drought tolerant and somewhat tolerant of saline soils and salt laden winds. Unwanted branches in the middle should be cut back to the base. In cultivation, it coppices vigorously when cut at about .5m above ground level. Woolly-grey caterpillars can be a problem.



Acacia stellaticeps - Northern Star Wattle/Poverty Bush



With a fast to moderate growth rate this Pilbara native will grow to 1.5m in height and 3m wide and has a moderate life span. A dense, rounded or flat topped shrub, it has a number of slender main stems, light green shoots, small dark green phyllodes, and masses of showy, yellow flowers in globular heads. The young pods are light green and stick up erect above the crown of the plant. It requires full sun and well drained soils and is drought resistant once established. Regular light pruning after flowering will help maintain a compact shape and an occasional harder pruning will stop it getting leggy.

Acacia translucens - Poverty Bush



Endemic to a large area of North Western Australia, this is a low, spreading shrub with a flat top that grows to a height of .5m to 2m and a width of around 1.5m although will sometimes grow as an erect, slender shrub to 3m. It has dark grey to black coloured bark that is smooth and branches near ground level. The thin, leathery, dull, grey-green phyllodes are obovate and up to 2.5cm long. It blooms from March to November with the bright yellow ball flowers borne on stalks. It requires full sun and will grow in a wide range of soils preferring well drained, red, poor, sandy soils. A very hardy plant, it is drought tolerant and wind and heat resistant.



Acacia wanyu - Silver-leaf Mulga



With a fast growth rate and a moderate life span, this endemic acacia will grow from 1.5m to 4m high and from 2m to 5m wide. It is a highly attractive, dense, rounded shrub or shrubby tree with fine, silvery-green or grey-green to bluish-green phyllodes that contrast well with the masses of light golden flower spikes and pendulous pods with a wrinkled surface. Younger shrubs tend to be multi-stemmed with the main stems being reasonably straight and the more mature plants have a gnarled and crooked stem with horizontal branches and dense crowns. It requires full sun and is suitable for a wide range of well drained soils including hard ironstone soils. Drought tolerant, the unwanted or dead branches in the centre can be cut back to the base.

Bougainvillea species : Paper Flower



Native to eastern South America this climbing shrub has thorny stems and drooping branches with heart-shaped leaves and inconspicuous, usually white flowers surrounded by brightly coloured papery bracts. There are about 300 varieties of bougainvillea with many different colours, double flowers, sizes, variegations, habits and some thornless. They are somewhat deciduous in the dry season. They need full sunlight, warm weather, and dryish, well drained soil to flower well and will live a long life. The stems can grow to as long as 30m but it can be pruned into a standard, grown along fence lines, on walls, in containers and hanging baskets, and as a hedge or an accent plant. They require frequent fertilisation but are highly salt and drought tolerant once established.

Crotalaria cunninghamii - Green Bird Flower



This endemic species is the Floral Emblem of the Town of Port Hedland. An attractive, erect, perennial shrub, it will grow up to 3m in height with a spread of 2m. It has a fast growth rate but a short life span. It has large, oval-shaped, velvety, grey-green leaves and branches. The masses of showy, yellowish-green pea flowers with stripes of purplish-brown veins appear in clusters during winter and spring. The individual flower resembles a hummingbird that is attached to the stem by its beak. Ideal for low screens and borders, it prefers a sunny position in well drained, sandy soils. It is tolerant of drought, saline soils, and salt laden winds, but is vulnerable to moulds and rotting during wet weather.

Crotalaria novae-hollandiae - New Holland Rattlepod



This Rattlepod is also endemic to the Pilbara and is an attractive, dense, erect shrub with appealing, oval-shaped, blue-grey-green leaves that are toxic to stock. It produces long, erect, showy, flowering stalks of bright yellow, pea-shaped flowers from January to November followed by pendulous, dark brown pods with small, light brown seeds that rattle when mature and are poisonous. It will grow quickly up to 1m tall and .5m wide on sandy, well drained soils in a sunny to partly shaded position.

Eremophila glabra - Compact Emu Bush



Endemic to the far west areas of the Pilbara, this is a variable, low to medium growing shrub. It has grey through to green leaves and tubular, red, orange, or yellow to green flowers. This plant grows well in poor, sandy loam or clay loam soils. It is an Australian native growing naturally in arid, inland areas so is drought resistant and will grow anywhere from .1m to 1.5m in height and has a spreading, quite bushy habit. It needs well drained soil in a sunny position and will flower all year round with very little supplementary watering. It's dense matting effect can suppress weeds and it is a fire retardant plant useful for stabilising banks. Cultivars are available in a large range of form and colour.

Eremophila hygrophana - Aussie Blue Bells



Native to inland Western Australia this shrub can vary in height from .3 – 1.2m and has an erect, compact shape, spreading to 1m, with crowded, grey leaves and violet to purple flowers. It is tolerant of drought and heat, but not humidity, so a sunny, open position is best. It has a slow to medium growth rate and responds to light tip pruning however hard pruning is not recommended. This evergreen shrub needs well drained soil in a sunny, open position and prefers soil low in organic matter. After establishment it requires very little supplementary water.

Eremophila macdonnellii - Desert Fuchsia



A small to medium sized shrub growing from .3 – 1.2m tall and .2 – 1.5 wide it is native to central Australia where it is found on sand dunes or sand plains, and has many tangled branches. The branches and green leaves are often covered with long hairs and the deep violet or blue flowers bloom from May till October. It is hardy and tolerant of drought and alkaline soils. In humid conditions it is susceptible to attack by Botrytis mould. The branches can be brittle and tend to break in strong winds. It needs poor, well drained soil in an open sunny position but protected from strong winds if possible.

Eremophila maculata - Spotted Emu Bush



Native to the east Pilbara this shrub will grow to between 1m and 2m high with a spread of between 2m and 3m. It will grow in full sun or part shade and will tolerate both drought and heat but does not like humid conditions. It grows in well drained, poor soils of sand, clay and loam but prefers shelter from strong winds and tolerates fire and lime. The red-pink-orange-yellow tubular flowers are spotted, bloom in winter and spring, and are larger than on other varieties. Tip pruning after flowering will encourage bushy growth and promote flowering. Hard pruning is not recommended and there are many cultivars available in various colours.

Eremophila pterocarpa - Silver Poverty Bush



An attractive small to large shrub this eremophila will reach a height of between 1m and 6m and is native to western Australia. It has silvery-grey foliage with dusky-pink to red flowers in winter and spring. It is hardy in cultivation and has a long life span. Needing poor, well drained, sandy loam or clay loam soils, it will grow in full sun or part shade in an open position. In nature it is subject to long droughts and occasional flooding and this watering regime will encourage its flowering. It is tolerant of hard pruning when mature.

Gossypium australe - Desert Native Cotton



This erect shrub is endemic to the Pilbara and will reach a height between 1m and 2m and a width of up to 2.5m. It has a fast growth rate but only a short to moderate life span. It is an attractive shrub with interesting, softly hairy, grey to blue-green, oval shaped leaves and showy, blue-pink/purple, hibiscus shaped flowers with a deep mauve centre. The flowers bloom from April to October. It will grow in a wide range of well-drained soils but prefers sandy soils. It likes full sun to part shade and is drought resistant. Tip pruning on a regular basis will keep it in a compact shape and it is ideal for borders and screening, as a filler between other plants and trees and as a feature plant for its grey/blue-green leaves contrasting well with the pink flowers. *G. robinsonii* (Wild Cotton) and *G. sturtianum* (Sturt's Desert Rose) are very similar species that can be used in the same way except that *G. robinsonii* grows too large for small courtyards (up to 5m). All these species are susceptible to borer attack.

Grevillea refracta - Silver-leaf Grevillea



Endemic to the Pilbara this Grevillea is a graceful, open shrub or sometimes a small tree with attractive leaves that are silvery-silky underneath and deep green above. It will grow to 6m tall and 4m wide with a fast to moderate growth rate and a moderate life span. From April to September it has clusters of lovely yellow-orange or red-orange flowers in short, open spikes. Requiring full sun, it prefers very well drained rocky or sandy soils but will tolerate dry to constantly moist soils. Fertilise with a low phosphorus fertiliser at planting and annually after rains. Lightly prune after flowering to promote new and compact growth and to promote flowering. It is drought and wind resistant.

Hibiscus - Hibiscus



This is a large genus of flowering plants comprising several hundred species that are native to warm temperate, subtropical and tropical regions throughout the world. They are renowned for their large, showy flowers. The genus includes both annual and perennial herbaceous plants as well as woody shrubs and small trees. *H. syriacus* and *H. rosa-sinensis* are both widely cultivated as ornamental plants and are available in variegated leaf forms and endless flower colour and size choices.

Hibiscus are fast growing with varieties that will grow anywhere from 2m to 8m tall and from 1m to 4.5m in width. They need slightly acidic, well drained soil, enriched with organic material, and regular fertilising during their growing season. They will tolerate dry periods but need regular watering through the hot summer months.

They can be grown as a hedge and regularly clipped, or pruned in September before the growing season to encourage a bushy shape and to promote flowering.

Ixora species - Jungle Geranium / Jungle Flame





This exotic shrub consists of about 560 species. Though native to the tropical and sub-tropical areas of the world its centre of diversity is in Tropical Asia. An evergreen shrub ranging in height from .5m to 2m, it is used extensively in tropical areas as a flowering hedge or feature plant. It comes in many different colours and is relatively hardy but will need supplementary watering in the dry season. It will grow in full sun although it appreciates some shade from the midday sun and prefers slightly acidic, humus rich soil. Prune after flowering to promote a dense bush and fertilise annually. Sooty mould can form on the leaves and is usually caused by ants and scale.

Melaleuca bracteata - Black Tea Tree / River Tea Tree



A hardy evergreen shrub or sometimes small tree that will grow to between 3m and 4m in height and between 2m and 3m wide. Native to the Pilbara region and many other Australian regions, this *Melaleuca* will grow almost anywhere. It prefers sandy, moist, well drained soil with a low nitrogen content, and once established will tolerate drought, although will benefit from some extra water during the hot summer months. It responds well to light, regular pruning in order to retain a dense habit, and has a fast to moderate growth rate. It has finely textured, grey bark, short, narrow, pointed, green leaves and white-cream flowers in short clusters at the ends of the branchlets blooming from May through to January. Ideal as a hedge or screen, it grows well in full sun or light shade. Cultivars developed include Revolution Gold, Revolution Green and a dwarf form called Golden Gem.

Melaleuca glomerata - Desert Honey-Myrtle



Endemic to the Pilbara this is an erect, spreading shrub, or sometimes tree, which will grow from 3m to 5m in height with a spread of up to 3m. It has spreading or straggly branches with cream-brown, papery bark, softly hairy, grey-green, narrow leaves and sweetly scented, yellow-cream flowers in small globular heads that bloom from June to December. It grows in a wide range of moist, well drained soils and tolerates some salinity. It responds well to light pruning to maintain a dense habit and will benefit from some extra water over the hot summer months. Good for screening, it is known for flowering prolifically, producing showy displays.

Murraya paniculata - Mock Orange



Murraya paniculata is native to the regions from south-east Asia to southern China and northern Australia. The commonly cultivated variety 'Exotica' is regarded as an environmental weed in New South Wales and Queensland. The native form has small leaflets 1.5-4cm long as opposed to 'Exotica' which has relatively large leaflets of 3-7cm long.

It is a bushy shrub growing to about 2 – 4m tall and bears fragrant, white flowers in clusters at the tips of branches or in the upper leaf forks. The small egg-shaped or oval fruit which follow turn from green to orange or bright red in colour as they mature.

It needs a sunny position in clay, sand or loam and tolerates drought although it needs supplementary watering in order to thrive in this climate. Can be pruned to shape and to promote flowering and can be hedged.

Myoporum montanum - Waterbush / Boobialla



A fast growing, evergreen shrub endemic to the Pilbara, the native Boobialla can tolerate drought and salt. It will grow to a height of 4m with a width of 2m to 3m. Sometimes weeping, it has attractive, glossy, deep green leaves. It produces a profusion of small white flowers with purplish markings blooming from May till December followed by small, red-purple, globular fruit. Adaptable to most soils and growing conditions, it requires well drained, sunny positions and is suitable for tall borders, screening, or as an informal hedge. Lightly prune regularly to shape and create new vigour. It is a fire retardant plant.

Ptilotus obovatus - Cotton Bush / Silver Mulla Mulla



Endemic to the Pilbara, this shrub will grow to 1.4m high and 1.5m wide with a moderate growth rate. It is a dense, rounded, and softly hairy plant with rounded, silvery-grey leaves and small pink-white flowers arranged in fluffy, rounded heads at the ends of the branchlets. It needs full sun to part shade, and will grow in a wide range of soils including rocky and sandy sites. Good for low borders and edging and for rockeries and as a filler plant. It is drought and cyclone resistant when established however will drop leaves when under water stress. Prune lightly after flowering to promote a compact habit and fertilise after summer rains.

Ptilotus rotundifolius - Royal Mulla Mulla



This is the floral emblem for the Pilbara. With a moderate growth rate and a moderate life span, it will reach a height of between .6m and 2m and a width between .4m and 2m. It is an attractive and showy perennial shrub. It has silver-grey, oval leaves with wavy margins that contrast well against the stunning, dense, pink-purple flower heads. Tolerating a wide range of well drained soils, it is drought resistant, and prefers an open sunny position. Lightly tip prune after flowering, which occurs from July to October, to maintain a compact shape. Apply a standard 12 month slow-release fertiliser annually after rains.

Russelia equisetiformis - Fire Cracker Plant



Native to Mexico, this fast growing, highly ornamental shrub will grow to a height of .9m to 1.8m with a spread of 1.2m to 1.5m. It is a multi-branching plant with graceful, arching, green stems, tiny, inconspicuous, green leaves and an overall fountain-like habit. During summer, coral-red, tubular flowers are displayed profusely at the ends of the branches in 30cm long sprays that may persist throughout the year. It will grow in both moist and dry conditions in full sun to part shade but will flower best in full sun. It requires humus enriched, well drained soil and regular fertiliser and needs protection from strong winds. Cultivars available include ivory, pink, lemon and apricot colours.

Scaevola crassifolia - Thick-Leaf Fan Flower



Endemic to the Pilbara this shrub can be erect, low-growing, or a groundcover, and will grow up to height of 1.1m with a width of up to 3m. It has thick, broad, sticky, and strongly scented leaves, and is evergreen. It has long lasting displays of masses of blue-white fan shaped flowers from July to February. It has a fast growth rate, and naturally grows on sand dunes, so needs exceptionally well drained sandy soils in full sun. Cyclone, heat and drought resistant, it may be necessary to tip prune regularly to form a compact shape and to promote flowering. It can be grown as an annual.

Senna artemisioides - Silver Cassia



Native to the Pilbara, this highly decorative erect or spreading dense shrub will reach a height and width of 1m – 2m and is a prolific flowerer. It has attractive, feathery, silvery, blue-grey or grey-green leaflets, masses of scented, bright yellow flowers and flat, brown, oblong pods. It prefers well drained stony or sandy soils that are well drained, and has a fast growth rate and a moderate life span. It tolerates wind, heat and drought. Previously known as Cassia, there are several subspecies eg oligophylla, which has oval shaped leaves, and filifolia, which has very fine, long leaves. All can be used for a rockery plant, low screening, informal hedging and borders and as a feature plant for its masses of flowers and attractive leaves. Tip prune young plants and hard prune established plants after flowering to maintain a dense shape.



Tecoma capensis - Cape Honeysuckle



An erect, scrambling shrub from Africa, this shrub is evergreen in the tropics and will grow to a height and width of 2m – 3m. It has a fast growth rate and may need regular pruning to keep it tidy. It is useful for hedging particularly along fences and can be trained to grow over a trellis. It needs full sun or part shade, and will tolerate medium strength winds, but also requires supplementary watering in hot or dry conditions. It needs well drained, loamy soils with plenty of organic matter and added fertiliser after pruning. The leaves can be up to 150mm long and are green to dark-green and the flowers are about 7.5cm long and grouped together in clusters with colours ranging from orange to orange-red and apricot.

Vitex trifolia - Coastal Vitex



This is a lovely, low, sprawling shrub or medium bush up to 3m in height with green-greyish foliage and delicate pale blue to purple flowers. The stems are usually procumbent, often rooting at the nodes, and forming mats several meters in diameter. It is widespread in the tropics from east Africa through Asia to northern Australia and the Pacific Islands. It grows on coastal sand dunes and sandy sea shores and also in mangrove forests. It requires a sunny position and well drained, preferably sandy soil, and is highly tolerant of salt in the air and in the soil. Established plants are very drought tolerant and will flower all year.

Westringia fruticosa - Coastal Rosemary



An Australian native from the east coast of NSW this is a shrub which will grow to 2m in height and 5m across. It is generally a very shapely shrub forming a dome shape with little or no pruning needed although it can be hedged to a formal shape. It has dense, fine green leaves with silver underneath and small white or mauve flowers. After reaching a mature size it does not deteriorate quickly with age, but maintains a good condition for years. Although drought hardy, adequate water should be given to avoid yellowing leaves and bare wood. Preferring sandy, free draining soils, it need full sun and is wind and salt tolerant. It is good as a cut flower and not troubled by pests or disease. There are several cultivars available.

Groundcovers :

Acacia hilliana - Hill's Tabletop Wattle



This Pilbara native will grow quickly to about .8m high and 5m wide and has a moderate life span. With a spreading, horizontally branched, flat topped habit, and it makes an ideal groundcover. It has bright green, sticky foliage with masses of showy, erect flower spikes and sticky, lemon-scented pods that project above the crown. It requires a position in full sun and prefers sandy and rocky well drained soils. It will flower from April till November with a main flush in May and June. Once established, it needs little extra water. Lightly prune after flowering to promote a compact shape.

Canavalia rosea - Coastal Jackbean



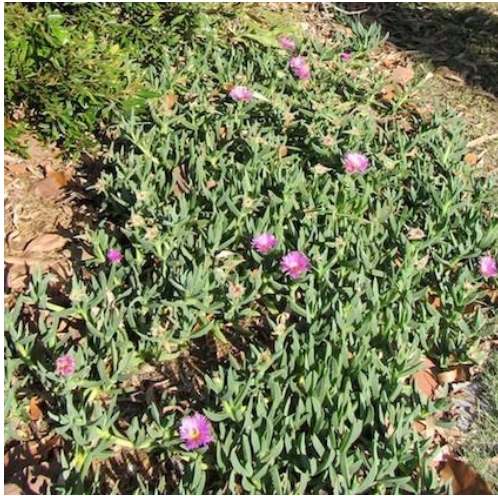
This is an endemic, mostly herbacious, trailing, perennial vine that has a fast growth rate but a short life span. It forms a mat of foliage up to .2m high but, with stems as long as 6m and 2.5cm thick, it can climb over other plants. Its natural habitat is upper beaches, cliffs and dunes so it is highly salt tolerant, and prefers sandy very free draining soils in full sun. The thick, leathery leaves fold up when exposed to the hot sun. It has eye-catching pink to purple pea-shaped flowers. It will grow up a fence as a screen but needs the old dead runners and seed heads pruned to keep it looking neat. It may be necessary to prune back runners to keep it spreading to areas where it is not wanted.

Capparis spinosa - Caper Bush



This is an exotic shrub originally from the arid regions of western and central Asia. It is perennial, deciduous, thorny, and prostrate or scrambling and will grow to a height and width of 1m. It has arching, red stems, rounded, fleshy green leaves, and a profusion of flower buds which are the edible capers. The showy flowers are sweetly fragrant, and white-cream with long lavender stamens and bloom in January to March. The immature fruit is the caper berry. It requires an arid or semi-arid climate with intense sun and is drought tolerant. Both the capers and the caper berries need to go through a series of processes in order to be edible.

Carpobrotus glaucescens - Pig Face



This is a hardy, fleshy, edible Australian native plant and is a prostrate, creeping succulent that is relatively pest free although may be attacked by scale in Summer. It grows naturally on the sand dunes on the eastern seaboard so it needs very well drained, sandy soil in full sun. It will grow to about 20cm high and spread to about 2m wide. It is ideal for rockeries, mass plantings, and as a sand dune stabiliser, and tolerates drought, humidity and salt. Bright pink daisy-like flowers are produced in spring and summer. The edible fruit ripens when the flower is pollinated and spent, and swells and turns deep red when ripe. It is then pickled or made into jam.

Cynanchum floribundum - Native Pear



Endemic to the Pilbara, this vine or sometimes scrambling shrub will grow at a moderate rate to a height and width of 2m and has a medium life span. It has a milky sap which is reported to be toxic, spear to oval shaped green leaves, and masses of white-cream, tubular flowers. The pods are pear shaped, light green, and contain seeds with long, silky hairs at one end. It prefers well-drained sandy and rocky soils in full sun. The annual aerial parts die back after flowering but reshoot after rain. Prune to shape when growing on fences as a screen.

Dipteracanthus australasicus - Desert Petunia



A very attractive Pilbara native that grows to between .5m and 1.5m tall and forms dense clumps 30cm in diameter. It has a moderate growth rate but only a short life span and has masses of showy, white-blue-purple-pink flowers that contrast well with the interesting, bright, green leaves. It requires full sun and well drained, sandy or stony soil and is drought tolerant. It is an excellent plant for rockeries, for low borders and for fill-in plants and can be planted close to buildings.

Enchylaena tomentosa - Barrier Salt Bush



This low-spreading or upright, semi-woody shrub is endemic to the Pilbara and will grow to 1m high with trailing branches up to 1m long. It has delicate, soft, densely hairy leaves that are semi-succulent and blue-green in colour. Insignificant flowers are followed by showy, long-lasting display of brilliant yellow to red succulent berries. It will grow in a wide range of poor soils, but prefers soils that are slightly saline. Highly tolerant of drought and extreme heat, it prefers lightly shaded areas and can be planted under trees and tall shrubs. It is well suited to foreshores, coastal plantings, rockeries, and areas with shallow soils. Hard prune when necessary to maintain a compact shape.

Grevillea obtusifolia - 'Gin Gin Gem'



This Grevillea is a compact, mound-forming groundcover that will grow to about 25cm high and 2m – 3m across. It features fine, bright green new foliage and red-cream flowers appearing all year round. A perennial that will grow in full sun to light shade, it needs well drained, dry soil. It does well in coastal sites and will benefit from a light prune after flowering for an even more dense habit. It needs regular water until established, but after that is drought tolerant and will benefit from a slow release, low phosphorus fertiliser when buds form.

Grevillea thelemanniana - Spider-Net Grevillea



Spider-Net Grevillea or Hummingbird Bush is a small, spreading shrub native to Western Australia that grows to between .3m and 1m in height and width. It's dark green leaves are divided into segment and are 3-5cm long. The clusters of pink or bright red and yellow tipped flowers can appear at any time throughout the year. Drought tolerant once established, thelemanniana enjoys a well drained, humus rich soil, and will tolerate moist soils over winter. It comes in several forms with different coloured leaves and more prostrate habits. Full sun with some afternoon shade is ideal and a light prune after flowering to promote a dense habit is also beneficial. Use a low phosphorus, slow release native fertiliser at budding.



Ipomea muelleri - Poison Morning Glory



This Pilbara native is an attractive, prostrate, trailing or climbing, short-lived perennial vine with long, trailing stems. It is fast growing up to .3m in height and 2m wide and can be treated as an annual. It prefers well drained, sandy and clayey soils in full sun. The stem is slender and does not exceed 2cm in diameter. It has heart-shaped leaves, and large, funnel-shaped flowers 4cm long and 5cm wide that occur in various colours from pale pink to reddish-purple throughout the year. Individual flowers last one day. This vine can be treated as an annual and is very drought tolerant.

Sesuvium portulacastrum - Shoreline / Sea Purslane



This is a fast growing, edible groundcover native to this area. Although often considered a weed it is ideal to cover previously barren ground although the fleshy foliage is not suited to high traffic areas. It will grow quickly to a height of 30cm and will spread to between 1m and 2m. Suitable for full sun to part shade it grows in a wide variety of soils and is tolerant of drought, sandy soil, and salt. It is suitable for edging, containers and for softening rocks and walls.

Trianthema turgidifolia - Swollen Ice Plant



An interesting, semi-erect or sprawling groundcover or small shrub, this endemic species will reach a height between 15cm and 50cm and spread of about 1.3m. It occurs naturally over the arid regions of northern Australia and makes a good groundcover for hot, dry locations. It is particularly suited to saline soils in coastal areas and can be used in the same ways as *Sesuvium portulacastrum*.

Annuals / Herbs :

Brachyscome ciliaris - Variable Daisy



Widespread in subtropical and temperate Australia, this bushy, perennial herb grows to about 40cm in height and width. The flower heads vary in colour from white through to mauve with a yellow centre. The plant flowers for most of the year and favours red earth and grey sands over clay or limestone. It is a highly variable species and is a hardy self-sowing herb ideal for mixed native landscapes, parks and reserves. It needs well drained soils in full sun to thrive, tolerates drought and lime and needs minimal supplementary watering.



Brachyscome iberidifolia - Swan River Daisy



A west Australian native, this is a versatile and attractive annual growing to about 30cm tall and 30cm wide. It has a fast growth rate and enjoys full sun to part shade but needs some shelter from strong winds. It has soft, feathery, deeply divided leaves and masses of fragrant flowers in pinks, mauves and purples with black or yellow centres. It is a compact and bushy plant that naturally grows in mounds. It prefers light, well drained soils with added organic matter. Tolerant of salinity, it can tolerate some dry spells, but are happier with regular water however they dislike wet or soggy feet. Deadhead to encourage further flowering.

Chrysocephalum apiculatum - Golden Everlasting



Endemic to the Pilbara this drought tolerant, perennial herb will live from 2 to 5 years if given supplementary water during dry spells. It will vary between a sparse, erect plant up to 60cm high to a much lower sprawling plant to 7cm high according to growing conditions. The hairy stems will occasionally form roots where they touch the ground in favourable growing conditions. It prefers well drained, sandy to clay loam, textured red earths, and clay soils. The leaves are elongated, narrow, and grey-green, and the numerous yellow to deep gold flowers bloom in tight clusters at the end of almost leafless stems throughout the year but mostly in late winter and spring. It can be pruned hard after flowering to maintain a compact shape.



Gomphrena canescens - Pink Billy Buttons / Batchelors Buttons



An annual or short-lived perennial, this attractive, erect herb is endemic to the Pilbara and will grow quickly to 70cm tall and 30cm wide. It has reddish stems, narrow, green leaves and showy round, pink-purple flower heads which are produced abundantly from late autumn to late winter and spring. It will grow in clay, sandy, and skeletal soils which are free draining, but not allowed to dry out completely, and prefers an open, sunny position. It is mostly seen as an annual but it will self-seed. It is ideal as a groundcover, or for low borders, rockeries and native garden beds and makes an excellent dried flower. It easily copes well with hot, humid summers and will benefit from regular tip pruning to keep it in shape.

Goodenia stobbsiana - Fan Flower



A Pilbara native, this sticky, erect to low-spreading annual herb or sometimes short-lived perennial shrub will grow quickly up to 1.2m tall and 1m wide with many branches. It has mid green coloured, egg-shaped to lance-shaped leaves and blue/blue-purple, fan shaped flowers that bloom from March to October. It is often found naturally in stony soils and needs well drained soil in an open, sunny position. It is ideal for rockeries, tall borders, edging, and wildflower gardens and is successful in containers.

Ptilotus nobilis - Tall/Pink Mulla Mulla



An erect, annual herb endemic to the Pilbara, it has strong stems either single or several with leathery, light green to blue-green foliage that contrasts well with the masses of showy, large, pink-purple, feathery, cylindrical flower spikes blooming from April through to November. It favours arid and semi-arid climates and is extremely heat and drought tolerant. It has a fast growth rate and will reach 1.5m tall with a width of 1m. There is a cultivar called Joey which grows to .5m tall and .4m wide. Full sun and well drained soil are necessary although it is found on a wide variety of soils. Lightly tip prune to create a compact habit and deadhead spent flowers to prolong flowering.

Swainsona formosa - Sturt's Desert Pea



This is a showy, endemic annual or short-lived perennial herb that will usually grow up to .5m tall and spread to approximately 3m wide although it has been known to grow as tall as 2m. It has attractive, silky-soft, grey-green leaves and spectacular, large, bright red pea flowers with a red or black centre which contrast well with the foliage and other plants. Sometimes white, pink and yellow flowers are also seen. It requires a very well drained site and prefers sandy soils. Tolerating drought and extreme heat, it has a very long tap root and will not tolerate root disturbance. It is suitable for containers and for trailing over walls and down embankments. Lightly prune tips to encourage lateral growth and fertilise with regular applications of a slow release fertiliser as it is a heavy feeder.

Swainsona maccullochiana - Ashburton Pea



An erect, single-stemmed annual and also a Pilbara native, this herb will grow to between .5m and 2m in height. It is found in loamy and gravelly soils in low lying, moist areas and near water courses. It has mid green leaves growing sparsely along the stems and bright red-purple to purple-blue pea shaped flowers occurring from July to October. It prefers a light to medium well drained soil in an open, sunny position and is drought tolerant. Plant in drifts to create a blaze of colour. May benefit from extra water over the summer months.

Swainsona pterostylis - Dampier Pea



Endemic to the Pilbara, this is a showy, low-growing annual or short-lived perennial herb to approx .4m high and spreading to about 1m in diameter. It often has a somewhat sprawling or scrambling habit with masses of eye-catching purple to purple-violet flowers blooming from April to October. Found on coastal sand hills, clay pans, sandplains and along creeklines and flood plains, it tolerates a wide variety of soil types. It may benefit from extra water during the summer months.



Grasses :

Aristida inaequiglumis - Feathertop Threawn



An endemic, loosely tufted perennial grass to 1.5m tall and .3m across. It often has appealing, curled basal leaves and interesting, open, purplish, three-spoked flower heads occurring from January to June. It prefers sandy, well drained soils. The seed heads are somewhat spiky and can be irritating so keep away from high traffic areas and entrance ways.

Astrebla lappacea - Curly Mitchell Grass



An endemic, wide-spread Australian inland perennial grass ranging in height from 30cm to 90cm. It is densely tufted with deep green to blue-green leaves that tend to curl when drying. The flowers are green-purple and occur in June and July in response to rain or flooding. It will live for up to 30 years and will grow on a wide variety of soils but prefers heavier clay soils. Prune lightly to encourage new growth and neaten by removing spent seed heads. It may benefit from extra water in summer to keep it looking good.

Cynbopogon ambiguus - Native Lemon Grass



A highly attractive, tussock forming, perennial grass growing up to 1m in both height and width this grass is native to the Pilbara area. It has green or blue-green leaves and tall, beautifully contrasting, fluffy, white, silky flower heads from November to December or January to June. All parts of the plant have a pleasant, aromatic, citrus smell when crushed and the stems and leaves can be used for flavouring food and making tea. This grass grows in a wide variety of well drained soils and thrives in poor soils. Hard prune to two nodes above the base at the end of summer to promote new growth and neaten by removing spent seed heads. It may benefit from extra water in summer to keep it looking good.

Lomandra - Mat Rush / Basket Grass



Lomandras are an elegant, native, strappy-leaf plant, growing in large, rounded, open tufts like a fountain. They are typically very hardy and will grow in wet areas and dry areas, under trees, in shade, and in full sun. They cope with a wide variety of soil types and ph levels and form dense root systems that penetrate deep into the soil making them ideal for erosion control and steep banks. There are 50 different varieties – “Tanika” has an upright growth habit and an established reputation as a super tough plant that’s extremely drought resistant and yet is soft to touch. Others are variegated, salt tolerant, drought resistant, blue-green coloured and weeping.

Pennisetum cenchrus advena 'Rubrum' - Purple Fountain Grass



Pennisetum species are warm-season grasses that are native to many parts of the world including Australia. However *P. setaceum* is a declared a noxious weed in South Australia because it outcompetes native plants in drier habitats including coastal dunes and mallee and has an extremely high rate of long-lived seed production. *P. advena* has flowers that are completely sterile so it does not become a weed. *P. advena rubrum* is originally from Africa. It will grow to a height and width of 1m. The long, narrow, upright to arching foliage is a dark burgundy-red to bronze colour. Preferring fertile soil, and good drainage, it will withstand heat, humidity, wind and drought. In spring trim back to 200 – 400mm above ground level to remove the previous season's spent foliage and flower stalks. Fertilise with a slow release fertiliser.

Spinifex longifolius - Beach Spinifex



An Australian native, Beach Spinifex is a perennial, rhizomatous grass that grows as a tussock from 30cm to 1m high and up to 2m wide. It grows on coastal dunes of white sand and also in most deserts around Australia. It has long flat leaves and green or brown flowers, and has separate male and female plants. One of the best primary dune stabilising species, it thrives under high wind, salt spray and sand eroding conditions.

Themeda triandra - Kangaroo Grass



This grass is a tufted perennial that can grow to 1.5m tall and .5m across. It's leaves are 10 – 50 cm long and 2 – 5mm wide, and are green to grey, drying to an orange-brown in summer. The flowering period is from December to February. This attractive grass grows well in full sun to part shade on sandy to clay soils and needs little water once established. The grass clumps do not need a lot of maintenance. Dead leaves can be raked out and old seed heads removed from the base. The clump can be cut back in early spring to encourage new green growth. It is drought tolerant but may benefit from extra water over summer to keep it looking good.

Triodia spp - Spinifex



Triodia is a large genus of hummock-forming tussock grasses endemic to Australia. They are known by the common name spinifex although they are not part of the coastal genus *spinifex*. They are a perennial grass that grow in arid regions with leaves 30 – 40cm long with a tapering point that can break off in the skin leading to infections. Regardless of species, Triodia is well adapted to thrive in some of the harshest environments in Australia, growing in well-drained, infertile, sandy soils. It can cope with extremes of temperatures, long term drought and responds well to fire. Triodia species dominate a quarter of the Australian landscape and are considered as a keystone to their environment. A great many native birds, animals and reptiles rely on the unique plant for their survival. Spinifex grasses can be divided into two groups known as 'hard' and 'soft' spinifexes. The main difference is that hard spinifex does not contain resin, usually forming dense circular clumps of rigid, spiny leaves. They sometimes grow outwards with age rings measuring 2 – 3m across with a bear or dead centre. The soft spinifexes are less densely packed, have less spiny leaves and form a continuous cover like tussock grasses. They also frequently exude sticky resin from



the stems and leaves, contributing to the intensity of some of the outback grass fires. The young leaves of spinifex are flat and relatively soft. However, as they age, they curl themselves up lengthwise becoming a stiff, pointed spike.

The most commonly cultivated species are :

Triodia basedowii : Lobed Spinifex



Triodia pungens : Soft Spinifex



Triodia schinzii : Feathertop Spinifex



Triodia wiseana : Limestone Spinifex



Palms and Accent Plants :

Beaucarnea recurvata - Ponytail Palm



Despite its common name, this plant is not closely related to true palms and is native to Mexico. It is an evergreen perennial growing to 4-5m tall with a noticeable expanded caudex for storing water. The single palm-like stem produces terminal tufts of strappy, recurved, leathery leaves, sometimes hair lock-shaped at the ends, and with the occasional pannicles of flowers once the plant reaches ten years old. They naturally grow in rocky, nutrient deficient soils on the side of steep mountains. The plants are very slow growing and very tolerant to drought. Be very careful not to over-water.



Cycas revoluta - Sago Palm



This cycad is native to southern Japan. Sometimes mistakenly thought to be a palm, the only similarity between the two is that they look similar and both produce seeds. The leaves grow from the trunk and start out as small leaves near the centre of the plant. This is a very symmetrical plant that has a crown of shiny, dark, spiky, green leaves on a thick, shaggy trunk, however, the plant is very slow-growing and will reach 6 -7m in 50 to 100 years. Trunks can branch several times producing multiple heads of leaves. As with other cycads, it is dioecious with the males bearing pollen cones and the females bearing groups of spores. It grows best in sandy, well-drained soil, preferably with some organic matter. It is fairly drought and heat tolerant and grows well in full sun to outdoor shade. It is extremely toxic to animals and humans if ingested, and will cause permanent internal damage and death.

Dypsis lutescens - Golden Cane Palm



Native to Madagascar, this is a clumping palm growing multiple, golden coloured stems from the base. It can reach a height of up to 12m with arched fronds 2-3m long. It bears panicles of yellow flowers in summer. It requires regular watering and regular applications of slow release fertiliser to do well and does not tolerate prolonged periods of extreme heat very well. It is suitable as a screen or as an accent plant.



Livistona alfredii - Millstream Fan Palm



This is a rare, endangered species of palm endemic to the Pilbara from below the Hammersley Ranges along waterways and some pools. It is a medium sized, solitary fan palm growing to about 10m high. The fronds are grey-green to blue-green in colour with relatively fine leaflets on stalks about a meter long. After the leaves die the stalks remain on the upper parts of the trunk. The flowers are cream or yellow coloured and are produced in spring and summer. The fruit are round, turning dark brown when ripe. It needs well drained soil in full sun to part shade and is drought and heat tolerant. It is a very slow growing species, taking about 6 – 8 years to form a trunk from a seedling.

Phoenix dactylifera - Date Palm



The origin of the Date Palm is unknown but is possibly from the oases of the Sahara. It is naturalised throughout Australia. It is a dioecious palm tree with the rounded trunk covered by old leaf bases. The crown is formed of 25 or more stiff leaves carried on a petiole covered in spines. Once the tree reaches about five years old it produces small, yellow flowers which develop into fruits called dates which are a high nutritional food. It will grow up to 10m in height with a spread of up to 5m and will live for up to 150 years. Date palms require well drained, deep, sandy loam, slightly alkaline soils that have the ability to hold moisture and are free of calcium carbonate. Due to their spiny leaf tips Date Palms must be a minimum of 2.5m in height at planting in all parks, gardens, verges, and streetscapes.



Roystonea regia - Royal Palm/Cuban Royal Palm



This species of palm is native to Mexico, parts of Central America and the Caribbean. It is a large, relatively fast-growing palm, growing to a height of 20 – 30 metres with a DBH of about 40 -50cm. The trunk is stout, swollen at the base and towards the middle, and very smooth and grey-white in colour with a distinctive green crown shaft. The tree holds about fifteen leaves which can be up to 4m long and it has flowers that are white with pinkish anthers followed by green fruit which ripen through to red and eventually purplish black. It likes rich, well-drained soil in a sunny position and is tolerant of heat and will withstand short periods of drought but will do best if given deep waterings every two or three weeks. Fertilise bi-annually with a slow-release fertiliser formulated for palms.

Wodyetia bifurcata - Foxtail Palm



This spectacular solo palm is native to Far North Queensland and has long (2-3m) plumose leaves. It will grow up to 10m tall with a grey trunk and produces large, poisonous, orange fruit. They like well-drained sandy soil, but will tolerate a wide range of soil types and once established, they are drought tolerant, however they will grow fastest and look better if given supplementary water during the dry season. They are moderately salt tolerant and cyclone resistant. They need full sun to part shade and an application of a fertiliser formulated for palms in spring.

Xanthorrhoea thorntonii - Desert Grass Tree



This Pilbara native is a perennial grass tree typically growing to a height of 5m and is the only species of *Xanthorrhoea* which grows in the desert. It blooms between August and December producing cream-white flowers. It has numerous, long, linear entire leaves radiating from the apex of one or more stout trunks. The white flowers are densely packed into long-stalked robust spikes. The plant is slow growing, but will live for up to several hundred years, and is fire resistant. It requires a very well-drained sandy soil in full sun and is very drought tolerant.

Zamia furfuracea - Cardboard Palm



This is a cycad originating in Mexico with a growth habit superficially resembling a palm. The plant has a short, sometimes subterranean trunk up to 20cm broad and high, usually marked with scars from old leaf bases. It grows very slowly when young, but its growth accelerates after the trunk matures. Including the leaves, the whole plant usually grows to 1.3m tall with a width of about 2m. The plant is easy to care for and grows best in moist, well-drained soil. They do well in full sun or shade, but not constant, deep shade. They are fairly salt and drought tolerant and should occasionally be fed with palm food.

Turf :

Cynodon dactylon - Winter Green Couch



Wintergreen couch grass is a warm season, fine, soft to touch hybrid couch. It is medium green with a dense blade and is a good all rounder although it needs at least five hours direct sunlight per day and will not grow in heavy shade. It is suitable for commercial applications as well as domestic use especially in tough environmental conditions. It is ideal for high traffic areas such as golf courses, sports ovals, parks and gardens, roadsides, urban in-fill areas and where close mowing is required. It has a creeping, deep root system, is self-repairing and recovers rapidly from wear, tear and damage. It is drought resistant, and has good salt tolerance and good resistance to pests and disease.

Cycodon dactylon - Santa Ana Couch



Santa Ana couch is a fine leaf turf and gives an impressive visual appearance especially when mown short. It is tough, hardy and bright green, and retains its colour during both cold winter months and hot summers. It is able to withstand high traffic because of its hardness, therefore it can be used for tennis courts, sports fields, parks and gardens, recreational and residential areas. It prefers full sun, however has moderate shade tolerance. Santa Ana is drought tolerant and has a medium growth. It is a creeping perennial that has above ground runners therefore making it less invasive than other species of couch.

Zoysia japonica - Zoysia Empire



Native to the coastal grasslands of south-east Asia and Indonesia, this is a species of creeping, mat forming, short, perennial grass that grows by rhizomes and stolons. Zoysia Empire is a hybrid with a dark green, medium-width and relatively fine leaf. This grass thrives in extremely hot and humid climates. It is wear tolerant as well. Characteristically, it maintains a good winter colour. It has a slow growth rate but once established is tolerant to wear and will suppress weeds. It requires little chemical application in comparison to other grass species with regard to pest and disease control, weed management and fertilisation.