

- Comments are welcome on the information in this Fact Sheet please email [pearlbeachenvironmentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:pearlbeachenvironmentgroup@gmail.com)

## Plants for Pearl Beach

- Some native species are hardy and tolerant of most soil types, others are less forgiving.
  - Be mindful of the **amount of sunlight required**. Areas of Pearl Beach are shaded and many natives require full sun.
  - Choosing the right **sized** plant is also important. Very large trees on small blocks can be problematic.
  - **Maintenance** of trees is necessary in urban areas as dead leaves, branches, leaves & roots can create problems.
  - Natives can be **killed by overwatering and over fertilizing**.
- 

### Trees:

**Native frangipani - *Hymenosporum flavum*:** grows 3-8 metres.  
Fast growing with yellow/cream centred flowers in spring



*Hymenosporum flavum* tree, image Heather Miles

**Willow bottlebrush - *Callistemon salignus*:** grows 3 - 5 metres. Flowers vary in colour from the creamy yellows to the pink reds



**Coast wattle - *Acacia sophorae*:** grows 3 metres. Dense foliage good in sandy soils.

**Grey myrtle - *Backhousia myrtifolia*:** grows 2-4 metres. Ornamental specimen tree. Long lasting pale green bracts after flowering



*Backhousia myrtifolia*, image Alan Fairley



**NSW Christmas bush - *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*:** Grows 5 metres. Spectacular ornamental tree with pink/red bracts after flowering mid-summer



## Flowering shrubs and ground covers:

**Coast rosemary - *Westringia fruticosa*:** grows to 1 metre. White flowers. Hardy and drought resistant. Needs tip pruning



*Westringia fruticosa*, image Alan Fairley



*Banksia spinulosa var spinulosa*, image Karlo Taliano

**Hairpin Banksia - *Banksia spinulosa*:** 2 metres. Spectacular banksia brushes with black styles. Full of bird attracting nectar. Cultivar 'birthday candles' is a compact form to 600mm

**Dog rose - *Bauera rubioides*:** 1 metre. Long flowering. Prefers semi-shade and moist conditions.



*Bauera rubioides*, image Alan Fairley

**Crowea saligna:** up to 1.5 metres. Pink star shaped flowers. Thrives in semi-shade and moist conditions.



*Crowea saligna*, image Alan Fairley

#### Mint bush -

**Prostanthera ovalifolia:** 1 metre. Dark green fragrant foliage. Profuse mauve flowers in spring.



*Prostanthera ovalifolia*, image Alan Fairley

**Cut-leaf mint bush - Prostanthera incisa:** 1 metre. Aromatic foliage. Profuse mauve flowers in spring.



*Prostanthera incisa* var *sieberi*, image Alan Fairley



**Native rosella - *Hibiscus heterophylla*:** 2 metres. Large white or yellow hibiscus flowers. Needs regular pruning.



**Lilly pilly - *Syzygium australe*:** 3 metres. Glossy green foliage. White flowers in spring, then edible red fruits. Many new decorative cultivars are available.

**Black-eyed Susan - *Tetradlea thymifolia*:** 300mm. Compact ground cover. Profuse dark purple flowers. (Note There are at least 3 other plants popularly known as Black-eyed Susan. That is why botanical names are necessary.)



*Goodenia ovata*, image Alan Fairley

**Hop Goodenia - *Goodenia ovata*:** 1 metre. Yellow flowers. Hardy and long flowering in semi- shade.



## Climbers and Trailing Plants:

**Wonga vine - *Pandorea pandorana*:** Vigorous climber.  
Cream flowers in spring. Many cultivars available.



*Hibbertia scandens*, image Jeff Howes



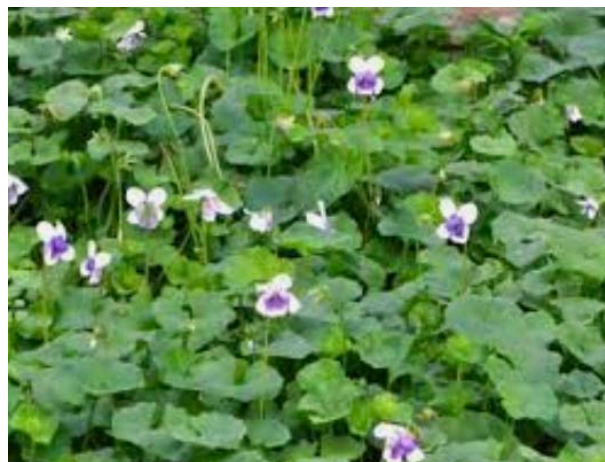
*Pandorea 'Golden Showers'*, image Heather Miles

**Golden guinea flower - *Hibbertia scandens*:** Low scrambling vine. Large golden yellow flowers throughout the year.

**Native violet - *Viola hederacea*:** Ground cover. Very hardy. Useful as a spreading cover in wet areas or under trees.



*Hardenbergia violacea*, image Heather Miles



**False sarsaparilla - *Hardenbergia violacea*:** Vigorous climber. Spectacular purple flowers in spring. A more compact cultivar 'Mini Haha' is available.

## More difficult plants with special requirements:

**Native Fuchsia - *Epacris longiflora*:** Emblem of Gosford City. Trailing stems of striking red and white tube flowers. Needs a moist spot in low nutrient stony sand.



**Swamp Banksia- *Banksia robur*:** 3 metres. Bright bottle green banksia flowers. Best in swampy ground.



*Banksia robur*, image Alan Fairley



**Common correa - *Correa reflexa*:** 1 metre. Red and green tube flowers in spring. Hardy cultivars available e.g. Correa 'Marions Marvel' with pink and green flowers. Prefers part shade.





**Box leaf wax flower *Philotheca buxifolius*:** syn.

*Eriostemon buxifolius*. 1 metre. Clusters of pink and white star flowers in late winter and spring. Needs well drained sandy soil.

**Pink wax flower *Eriostemon australasius*:** up to 2m and 1 metre. Spectacular pink star-shaped flowers in spring. Does best in well drained stony sand with sandstone pebble mulch. Best grown in semi shade. It won't tolerate drying out or water logged conditions.



**Pink spider flower *Grevillea sericea*:** 1 metre. Long flowering. Hardy. Low phosphorus sandy soil. Many cultivars available.







*Grevillea speciosa*

**Red spider flower *Grevillea speciosa*:** 1 metre.  
Striking red flowers. Thrives in low phosphorus sandy soil.

**Flannel flower *Actinotus helianthi*:** Wyong floral emblem. Does best in low nutrient sandy soil. Compact forms available.



*Actinotus helianthi*, image Alan Fairley



**Wedding bush *Ricinocarpos pinifolius*:** 1 metre.  
White star shaped flowers in spring. Needs low nutrient moist sand in part shade.

The **Waratah** has been deleted from this list as it is hard to grow. It may be more successful to plant a **hybrid version**.