Native Vegetation

of the Goulburn Broken Riverine Plains

Goulburn Murray Landcare

GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

State Government Victoria

GREATER SHEPPARTON

MOIRA SHIRE ON THE MURRAY

SHIRE OF CAMPASPE

Native Vegetation of the Goulburn Broken Riverine Plains

This project is delivered and funded primarily through the partnerships between the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA), Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Goulburn Murray Landcare Network (GMLN), Greater Shepparton City Council, Shire of Campaspe and Moira Shire.

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The second edition, renamed "Native Vegetation of the Goulburn Broken Riverine Plains" was updated by Wendy D'Amore, GMLN with additions and subtractions made to the plant list and the booklet published in a new format.

Special thanks to Sharon Terry, Rolf Weber, Joel Pyke and Gary Deayton for their expert knowledge of the plants and their distribution in the Riverine Plains.

Many thanks also to members of the GMLN, Goulburn Broken CMA, DPI and Goulburn Valley Printing Services for their advice and assistance.

Photo credits

In this edition many plant profiles had their photographs updated or added to and additional species were added. The following photographers are gratefully acknowledged: Sharon Terry, Phil Hunter, Judy Ormond, Andrew Pearson, Keith Ward, Janet Hagen, Gary Deayton, Danielle Beischer, Bruce Wehner and Wendy D'Amore. All other photos were supplied by DPI and Department of Sustainability and Environment from the first edition.

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Contents

Introduction

This booklet is an identification guide and general reference to some of the indigenous plant species commonly found on the Goulburn Broken Riverine Plains.

Within the Goulburn Broken Catchment, the Riverine Plains refers to the flat to gently undulating land and floodplains of the northern part of the catchment, and are part of the Murray, Goulburn and Broken River systems. The area corresponds with the Victorian Riverina and Murray Fans Bioregions (See Map). A bioregion reflects a particular geographic area sharing a common topography, plant and animal community and often pattern of land use (Earl et al 2001). The Riverine Plains covers more than one third of the Goulburn Broken Catchment and includes the regional centres of Shepparton, Cobram, Echuca and Kyabram. The area has been used extensively for irrigated and dryland agriculture resulting in approximately 90% of the indigenous vegetation being cleared.

Some of the types of vegetation which once dominated the region were: grasslands rich in wildflowers, herbs, orchids and lilies; grassy woodlands dotted with trees of Grey box or bulokes and wattles; and floodplains with majestic forests of River Red gums, wattles and sedges.

Protection of our remaining precious native vegetation and enhancement through revegetation is critical to maintain and stop decline in biodiversity and environmental health affecting our whole landscape.

The aim of this booklet is:

- For landowners and residents to be able to recognise different plant species in their local environment; in remnant vegetation on their properties, roadsides or nearby bush reserves.
- To raise awareness of the diversity of plants we have in our region.
- To raise an interest in protecting our remnant vegetation and wildlife habitat, in re-establishing or enhancing areas of native vegetation on private and public land and encouraging use of indigenous plants in our gardens.
- To educate people on the types of plants that can be used for specific purposes, i.e. for erosion, landscape design, windbreaks, attracting birds or butterflies, and for wet or dry areas.

GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT

Ninety species are listed, which is only a small portion of the plant species indigenous to the region. Each species description includes photographs of the plant's habit, leaf, flower and seed where available. There are also some significant and rare plants listed for general awareness and appreciation. For more detailed information refer to references on page 95.

This booklet is designed to assist landowners and residents of the Goulburn Broken Catchment to play a major role in caring for the natural landscape of this region. It was funded through the partnerships between the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Department of Primary Industries, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Greater Shepparton City Council, Shire of Campaspe and Moira Shire, and we thank them for their valuable contributions.

Symbols

Rare/endangered

Rare or threatened within the state of Victoria.

Significant in region

May be widespread or common in other areas but is rare in the Goulburn-Broken Catchment.

Bird attracting

Butterfly attracting

Drought tolerant

Prefers wetter areas

Plant Profile

Description:

Size, form, colour, flowering and seeding.

Cultivation:

Soil type, when to prune etcetera.

Special Notes:

Any additional information of interest.

Silver Wattle

Acacia dealbata

Description:

Spindly small to medium tree: 5-15m. Leaves feathery; silver-grey. Flowers in winter to spring. Pods straight-edged and flattish.

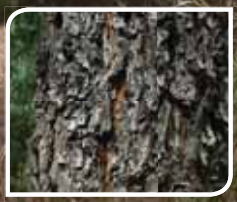
Cultivation:

Prefers moist soil but will not tolerate waterlogging.

Special Notes:

Commonly found along the Goulburn and Murray Rivers, and other water bodies. Helps prevent bank erosion. Fixes nitrogen. Suitable for planting around effluent disposal fields. Aboriginals ate gum or dissolved it in hot water for a sweet drink.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Bottom Left).



Lightwood

Acacia implexa

Description:

Small to medium tree: up to 15m. Leaves narrow, sickle-shaped. Flowers pale yellow to almost white in summer to autumn. Pods narrow and coiled.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy loams. Adaptable to many soils but intolerant of waterlogging.

Special Notes:

Found in open forests. Useful for wind-breaks. Fixes nitrogen. Aboriginals used fibre for string, leaves as fish poison and bark to treat skin diseases.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Top Left, Bottom Right). Sharon Terry (Bottom Left).

Golden Wattle

Acacia pycnantha

Description:

Shrub to small tree: 3-8m. Loosely branching. Leaves broad and curved. Flowers in late winter to mid-spring. Pods flattish and almost straight-edged.

Cultivation:

Adapts to most soils. Short lived, usually 5-10 years.

Special Notes:

Found in open forests and along creeks. Fixes nitrogen. Seeds can be roasted and ground as a food/garnish. Aboriginals ate gum or dissolved it in hot water for a sweet drink. Australia's floral emblem.

Willow Wattle

Acacia salicina

Description:

Large shrub to small tree: up to 20m. Leaves irregularly formed on slightly zig-zag branchlets. Flowers in autumn to winter. Pods thick and woody.

Cultivation:

Prefers heavy soils, but can tolerate sandier soils.

Special Notes:

Stabilises riverbanks. Fixes nitrogen. Found with Black Box.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Bottom Left, Bottom Right).

River Cooba

Acacia stenophylla

Description:

Small erect tree: up to 10m. Leaves long, narrow and strap-like. Flowers at various times. Pods hard and lumpy, like a string of beads.

Cultivation:

Prefers loam to heavy soils.

Special Notes:

May be found with River Red Gums and Black Box. Fixes nitrogen. Also called Eumong.

Buloke

Allocasuarina leuhmanii

Description:

Small to medium tree: up to 20m. Long wire-like branchlets resemble foliage hanging down. Buloke trees are either male or female. Male's flower in long yellowish to red spikes, Female's flower very small; cones flat and round.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy clays.

Special Notes:

Commonly associated with Grey Box and Cypress-pine.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Bottom Right).

Buloke Mistletoe

Amyema linophylla

Description:

Parasitic plant (NOT A TREE) that grows upon the branches of various trees, usually Bulokes. Leaves appear similar to host plant. Flowers bright red and tubular, splaying at tip to display anthers.

Cultivation:

Is parasitic but usually co-exists without significant detriment to host.

Special Notes:

Lives almost exclusively on Bulokes. Listed as vulnerable in Victoria. Is an important food plant for the larvae of several butterflies including Satin Azure *(Ogyris amaryllis)*.

Box Mistletoe

Amyema miquelii

Description:

Pendulous parasitic plant (NOT A TREE) that grows upon the branches of various trees, usually *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia sp*. Leaves appear similar to host plant often yellowish or brownish green in colour. Flowers bright red and tubular in summer to autumn. Flowering is followed by yellow/green fleshy fruits attractive to birds.

Cultivation:

Is parasitic but usually co-exists without significant detriment to host except if there is a severe infestation.

Special Notes:

Commonly associated with *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia*. Is an important food plant for possums, gliders, birds, insects and the larvae of several butterflies.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Silver banksia

Banksia marginata

Description:

Compact shrub to small tree: up to 15m. Leaves stiff, dark green above, whitish underneath, with notched tips on grey branchlets. Flower spikes pale yellow, honey scented, profuse in late summer to winter.

Cultivation:

Adaptable to a wide variety of soils, full sun or partial shade. Highly sensitive to elevated phosphorus levels in soil. Fast growing and long lived.

Special Notes:

Found in open forests.

Aboriginals soaked flower cones in water in wooden vessel for a drink to cure colds and sore throats. Also nectar can be sucked straight from cone. Used for windbreaks.

Photos: Sharon Terry.

White Cypress-pine

Callitris glaucophylla

Description:

Small to tall tree: up to 25m. Foliage narrow and cylindrical. No flowers. Plant has both male spikes and female globular cones.

Cultivation:

Prefers loamy plains or sandy rises. Is slow growing.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands. Can occur in pure stands. Mature trees are important habitat for Grey-crowned Babblers and Apostlebirds, especially when near Grey Box and Buloke. Aboriginals used resin for water-proof adhesive and wood for many implements. Leaves contain an antiseptic oil. Also called Murray Pine.

Similar species: Slender Cyprus-pine, foliage is olive-green. Also occurs Murray Region.

White Box

Eucalyptus albens

Description:

Small to tall tree: up to 24m. Branches typically begin high up on trunk. Fine whitish-grey bark. Large leaves with broad base tapering to tip. Juvenile leaves are rounded. Creamy white flowers in late autumn to early spring, although not every year.

Cultivation:

Prefers fairly fertile soils.

Special Notes:

Useful in irrigation recharge control. Appearance is similar to Grey Box but canopy is more blue-grey and nuts are larger.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Bottom Right).

River Red Gum

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Description:

Distinctive medium to very tall tree: up to 45m. Dull grey bark with cream, red or dark grey patches. Leaves narrow and tapering with obvious veins. White flowers in spring to early summer.

Cultivation:

Prefers clay soil with deep moist subsoils.

Special Notes:

Found along inland rivers, dry watercourses and floodplains forming extensive pure forests. Aboriginals used large sheets of bark to make canoes and large burls were cut off and hollowed out to make water containers.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Top Left).
Andrew Pearson (Bottom Left).

Black Box

Eucalyptus largiflorens

Description:

Small to medium tree: up to 20m. Branches typically begin low on trunk. Hard ash-grey to black bark, rough to tips of branches. Leaves narrow and tapered, tip often curved. Juvenile leaves are very narrow and tapered. Creamy white (occasionally pink) flowers, in spring to summer.

Cultivation:

Prefers clay or clay loams.

Special Notes:

Mostly in pure stands.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Bottom Right).

Yellow Box

Eucalyptus melliodora

Description:

Medium to tall tree: up to 30m. Yellow bark becoming increasingly smooth from trunk to branches; scaly grey-brown box-like bark on base of trunk. Leaves thin and tapering. Juvenile leaves are oval. Creamy white flowers in spring to summer.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy and loam soils, although able to grow on a wide variety of soil types.

Special Notes:

Good nectar producer. Leaves can produce a range of different coloured dyes.

Grey Box

Eucalyptus microcarpa

Description:

Small to tall tree: up to 25m. Y-shaped form is typical. Scaly grey bark on trunk and large branches, smooth and ribbony on smaller branches. Leaves narrow and tapering. Juvenile leaves are oval or narrow. White flowers in late summer to winter.

Cultivation:

Prefers heavy loams.

Special Notes:

Found with other Boxes, Ironbarks, Buloke and Cypress-pine. Appearance is similar to White Box but canopy is greener and nuts are smaller.

Hooked Needlewood

Hakea tephrosperma

Description:

Small crooked tree or in dense thickets: 3-12m. Leaves greyish and needle-like with curved tips. White flowers in spring.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy or loamy soils. Young plants are exceptionally palatable to grazing animals and must be protected for survival.

Special Notes:

Nectar can be sucked from flowers or mixed with water for a sweet drink. When protected from grazing animals, will regenerate readily through root suckers.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main, Top Right). Judy Ormond (Bottom Left).

Weeping Pittosporum

Pittosporum angustifolium

Description:

Large shrub to small tree: 3-9m with attractive weeping habit. Leaves long and narrow. Small, pale yellow, fragrant, bell-shaped flowers in winter to spring. Yellow to orange oval fruit with sticky red seeds.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy loam but adaptable to a wide range of conditions. Will not tolerate waterlogging.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands. Also called native apricot for colour of fruit. Aboriginal uses varied with location: seeds pounded to make flour, infusions from seed, leaves or wood to relieve cramping, colds, sprains & itching.

Photos: Phil Hunter (Bottom Right).

Gold-dust Wattle

Acacia acinacea

Description:

Spindly shrub: up to 2m. Leaves stalkless and small. Flowers in winter to spring. Pods curved or coiled.

Cultivation:

Adapts to most soils. If in garden, occasional tip pruning promotes bushy growth, whilst heavy pruning promotes suckering.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands and open forests. Fixes nitrogen.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Bottom Left).

Grey Mulga

Acacia brachybotrya

Description:

Rounded shrub, erect or spreading: 1-4m. Leaves greyish green, narrow and tapering on stiff branches. Juvenile leaves oval or narrow. Abundant golden yellow flowers in winter to spring. Pods straight, blackish and flat.

Cultivation:

Prefers well drained soils.

Special Notes:

Found in drier open forests.

Useful for controlling erosion. Fixes nitrogen. Provides dense understorey.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Top Right).
Phil Hunter (Bottom Right).

Hakea Wattle

Acacia hakeoides

Description:

Large wide shrub: up to 4m high and 7m across. Leaves narrow and blunt-ended. Flowers in winter to early spring. Pods constricted between seeds.

Cultivation:

Commonly found on loams but will grow on a wide variety of soils.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands and open forests. Fixes nitrogen.

Mallee Wattle

Acacia montana

Description:

Dense and rounded shrub: up to 4m. Leaves straight-edged and rounded at tip, often sticky. Flowers in late winter to spring. Pods almost straight with a dense, white, woolly covering.

Cultivation:

Adaptable to a wide variety of soils. Very hardy.

Special Notes:

Found in woodland and adjoining open forests. Fixes nitrogen.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Top Right).

Hedge Wattle

Acacia paradoxa

Description:

Spreading shrub: 2-4m. Fine intricate branching with fine thorns along branches. Leaves leathery and often wavy-edged. Flowers in spring. Pods straight or curved, with erect white hairs giving furry appearance.

Cultivation:

Prefers drier soils. Fast growing and lives 10-20 years.

Special Notes:

Found in woodland and open forests. Fixes nitrogen. Also called Kangaroo Thorn.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Bottom Left).

Varnish Wattle

Acacia verniciflua

Description:

Small bushy tree: up to 4m. Leaves long, narrow and shiny, as if freshly painted with varnish. Flowers in winter to spring. Pods flat and straight-edged.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy or loamy soils.

Special Notes:

May be found in drier open forests, especially box forests. Fixes nitrogen.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main).
Wendy D'Amore (Bottom Left).

Sweet Bursaria

Bursaria spinosa

Description:

Large thorny many-stemmed shrub: up to 8m. Creamy white flowers in spring to summer in loose pyramidal clusters at end of branches and have a distinctive fragrance. Red-brown seed capsules thin, dry and purse-like.

Cultivation:

Adaptable to a wide variety of soils. If in garden, may be pruned to shape.

Special Notes:

Found as generally isolated plants on roadsides and creek banks. Useful for controlling erosion. Nectar can be sucked from the flowers. Seed pods rattle when dry. Attracts beneficial parasitic wasps; and butterflies. Food source for the Eltham Copper Butterfly caterpillar.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Bottom Left).

River Bottlebrush

Callistemon sieberi

Description:

Tall willowy shrub: up to 7m. New growth pinkish. Cream or pale pink, distinctive round brush-like flowers. Flowers in late summer.

Cultivation:

Adaptable to a wide variety of soils. Prefers moist conditions but will tolerate dry soils. If in garden, may remove spent flowers to promote bushy growth.

Special Notes:

Widespread on riverbanks. Suitable for planting around effluent disposal fields. Nectar can be sucked from the flowers. Crushed leaves make a tea.

Photos: Danielle Beischer (Top Right, Bottom Right).

Drooping Cassinia

Cassinia arcuata

Description:

Open shrub: up to 2m. Leaves small narrow aromatic, with strong curry smell. Branches long and slender with white hairs. Flower heads shiny pale brown drooping in plumes in spring to autumn.

Cultivation:

Prefers well drained soil but tolerant of wide range and likes disturbed ground. Open position in semi shade. Fast growing.

Special Notes:

Found in open forests, scattered or in clumps. Also called Chinese Shrub or Chinese Tree-scrub because was associated with Chinese diggings on goldfields.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Grey Parrot-pea

Dillwynia cinerescens

Description:

Small shrub: up to 2m high and 1m wide. Narrow rigid grey-green leaves. Flowers during spring in small pea-like flowers clustered at the end of branches.

Cultivation:

If in garden, may prune after flowering for bushy growth.

Special Notes:

Found along creek banks. Fixes nitrogen.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main).

Wedge-leaf Hopbush

Dodonea viscosa subsp. cuneata

Description:

Small to medium shrub: 2-3m. Leaves variably wedge shaped (subspecies variation: some have leaf tip straight edged (as if cut off), others have rounded tips). Plants either male or female but appear similar. Reddish inconspicuous flowers at various times of year. Distinctive red-brown winged papery seed pod.

Cultivation:

Common throughout area and adapts to most soil types. Responds to light pruning.

Special Notes:

Found with Grey Box and Yellow Box. Suitable for planting around effluent disposal fields. Aboriginals used chewed leaves for toothache and on stonefish and stingray wounds. DO NOT SWALLOW JUICE! Food source for Superb Parrot.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Bottom Left).

Amulla or Winter Apple

Eremophila debilis

Description:

Prostrate spreading shrub: 1-2m across. Narrow elliptical leaves, entire or slightly toothed and glossy. White to mauve flowers mainly in summer. Fruit fleshy white to purple, 9mm diameter.

Cultivation:

Well drained soil. Full sun to part shade. May be frost sensitive.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands. Dense groundcover.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Bottom Right). Sharon Terry (Top Right).

Berrigan

Eremophila longifolia

Description:

Tall shrub to small tree: can be up to 8m. Long narrow grey-green leaves. Reddish flowers throughout year. Purple fleshy fruit oval in shape with long tail at tip.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy loams. Often suckers, forming clumps.

Special Notes:

Useful in controlling erosion. Attractive to birds: Emus said to eat fruit, flowers attract honeyeaters. Aboriginals used bruised leaves to tan skin. Also called Emubush.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main).

Spreading Eutaxia

Eutaxia diffusa

Also known as Eutaxia microphylla var. diffusa

Description:

Growth variable, usually a shrub: up to 1.5m. Heath like. Small narrow leaves greyish green along dense soft stems. Small yellow and red pea like flowers in spring. Flowers variable in colour, may be yellow and purple.

Cultivation:

Prefers drier areas. Tolerates a wide variety of conditions. If in garden, can respond well to occasional pruning.

Special Notes:

Useful for controlling erosion. Fixes nitrogen.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Common Eutaxia

Eutaxia microphylla var. microphylla

Description:

Growth variable, usually a shrub: up to 1m but may also form prostrate mats: up to 1.5m across. Heath like. Thickly clustered very small narrow leaves along stiff stems, sometimes spiny tipped. Small yellow and red pea like flowers in spring. Flowers variable in colour, may be all yellow.

Cultivation:

Prefers drier areas and well drained. Tolerates a wide variety of conditions. If in garden, can respond well to occasional pruning.

Special Notes:

Useful for controlling erosion. Fixes nitrogen.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Top Left).

River Tea-tree

Leptospermum obovatum

Description:

Tall shrub: 2-4m. Bark fibrous and persistent on larger stems, smooth on smaller stems shedding in stringy strips. Leaves aromatic, variable: broadest towards the blunt and often indented tip. Creamy open flowers in summer. Seed capsules about 5mm wide.

Cultivation:

If in garden, may prune regularly to encourage bushiness.

Special Notes:

Found by streams and swamp margins.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Tangled Lignum

Muehlenbeckia florulenta

Description:

Small to medium many-branching and fine-stemmed shrub: up to 3m. Leaves generally absent. Dark grey-green branchlets stiff and wiry. Small creamy flowers clustered close to stem various times of year.

Cultivation:

Prefers silty, clay and heavy soils.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands, especially Black Box. Can be found along creeks, in swamps and in occasionally flooded areas. Useful to control erosion in waterlogged and saline sites.

Photos: Keith Ward (Main, Top Left).

Waterbush

Myoporum montanum

Description:

Wide bushy shrub: up to 3m. Leaves long, thin and tapered. Small white open flowers, furry inside; at various times of year. Globular fruit matures to purple.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy-loams. If in garden, may prune lightly and regularly to promote bushiness.

Special Notes:

Found in White Cypress-pine and forest communities. Aboriginals used gum from stems as glue.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Top Right).
Sharon Terry (Bottom Right).

Desert Cassia

Senna artemesoides

Description:

Small to medium shrub: 1-3m. Leaves long and narrow, can broaden at tip. Flowers abundantly in spring (occasionally summer). Fragrant flowers clear yellow with petals curving inwards. Dark brown pods flat and membranous.

Cultivation:

Prefers sandy-loams. If in garden, prune lightly after flowering to maintain shape and to promote flowering.

Special Notes:

Found in open forests and woodlands; also occasionally creek frontages. Fixes nitrogen.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main).
Wendy D'Amore (Bottom Left).

Wallaby-grass

Austrodanthonia spp.

Description:

Common tussock grass with long graceful flower stalks: up to 1m high. Linear narrow flowers, often green to purple. Distinctive fluffy seed heads.

Cultivation:

Perennial. If in garden, may rejuvenate old tussocks by pruning severely or even burning and watering afterwards. Very hardy and persistent. Useful on groundwater recharge areas.

Special Notes:

Valued for its persistence, palatability and productivity. Food source of Golden Sun Moth.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main).

Spear-grass

Austrostipa spp.

Description:

Tussock grass: up to 1m high. Feathery flowers and shiny, bronze seed heads with corkscrew twists and long awns in early summer. (Awn - slender bristle-like appendage)

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers well drained infertile soils. If in garden, may rejuvenate old tussocks by pruning severely and watering afterwards.

Special Notes:

Found with other grasses.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main, Left).

Common Wheat-grass

Elymus scaber

Description:

Open, sparsely tufted grass: up to 30cm high. Narrow green to bluish leaves with half-twist, rough along edge. Slender flower spikes: up to 1.2m high. Flowers with long outward-curving awns in summer: up to 5cm long. (Awn - slender bristle-like appendage)

Cultivation:

Perennial.

Special Notes:

An important component of native grasslands. Flowers have been described as wheat-like; hence name.

Photos: Phil Hunter (Main, Right).
Wendy D'Amore (Bottom Left).

Spider Grass

Enteropogon acicularis

Description:

Dense clumping tussock grass. Green leaves from erect usually branching stems, leaf blades often curl into a spiral at tip: up to 20cm long and 6mm wide. Flowers terminal cluster of 7-15 wide-spreading spikes, usually not on one plane: up to 18cm long. Develops numerous dark seeds.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Widespread on all soils.

Special Notes:

Once dominant. Stabilises sandy soils. Very similar to Windmill Grass *(Chloris truncata)* but *Chloris* flower spikes are all on one plane and tussocks are smaller. Also called Curly Windmill Grass or Umbrella Grass.

Common Tussock Grass

Poa labillardierei

Description:

Large dense tussock grass: up to 80cm. Flower spikes, initially green becoming light brown. Open, pyramid-shaped flowers in spring becoming finely branched seed heads as they mature: up to 1.3m.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers well drained loams. Occurs along river banks and wetter areas.

Special Notes:

Unpalatable to stock. Aboriginals used stems and leaves as string to make nets. May help control erosion.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main).
Wendy D'Amore (Right).

Warrego Summer-grass

Setaria jubiflora

Description:

Erect dense tussock grass: to 120cm high. Leaves flat smooth and narrow, bluish green to 25cm long.

Seed head, long and narrow: up to 25cm long with erect compact spikes, from summer to autumn. Seeds pale green to straw colored.

Cultivation:

Summer perennial. Prefers heavier, fertile soils.

Special Notes:

Found along watercourses and seasonally wet areas. May help control erosion. Palatable to stock.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Left).
Sharon Terry (Bottom Right).

Kangaroo Grass

Themeda triandra

Description:

Dense clumping tussock grass. Soft bright green linear leaves form tussock: up to 50cm high. Flower spikes initially green with distinctive purple or green flower heads and black awns, becoming red-brown in summer: to 1m high. (Awn - slender bristle-like appendage)

Cultivation:

Perennial. Deep rooted. Adaptable to any soil type. Rejuvenate old tussocks by pruning severely in winter.

Special Notes:

Aboriginals used stems and leaves as string to make nets. Seeds can be ground and baked.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Right).

Rigid Panic

Whalleya proluta

Description:

Erect, often loose tussock: up to 40cm. Flat bright green leaves, narrow and pointed: up to 10cm long borne on upward spreading stems. Flower spike protrudes beyond leaves: to 1m high. Distinctive branched flowers spread widely at maturity in spring. Individual heads give appearance of delicate Christmas tree. Seeds on long fragile stalks remain attached to head which becomes windblown at maturity.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Heavy soils.

Special Notes:

Particularly common on wet sites. Seed heads can pile up against any barriers in their way when windblown. Aboriginals ground seeds for flour.

Small Vanilla-lily

Arthropodium minus

Description:

Fine grass-like leaves arising from tuber: up to 10cm. Flowers borne along stalks: up to 30cm. Deep pink to purple flowers in spring with vanilla-like fragrance. Purple stamens are distinctly hairy.

Cultivation:

Perennial. In garden, flowering may be extended by removing stems before seed heads form.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and open woodlands. Aboriginals ate tubers roasted or raw throughout year.

Photos: Phil Hunter.

Chocolate Lily

Arthropodium strictum

Description:

Grass-like leaves in small tussock: up to 50cm. Flowers born singly on branched stalks: up to 50cm. Dark mauve to pink-violet flowers opening in succession along stems in late spring with a rich chocolate fragrance. Purple anthers are hairless.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers some shade. Leaves die down over summer. May self-seed.

Special Notes:

Found in grassy plains and woodlands. Can smell similar to Vanilla-lily. Aboriginals ate tubers roasted or raw throughout year.

Berry Saltbush

Atriplex semibaccata

Description:

Prostrate perennial forming dense mats. Small grey-green oval leaves borne singly along long stems. Small flowers borne singly where leaf joins stem. Succulent red fruits. At maturity fruit becomes flat, dry, diamond shaped capsule.

Cultivation:

Suits most conditions. Can persist in degraded areas, including salt scalds.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands. Common in Grey Box dominated roadsides. Food source for caterpillar of Chequered Blue Butterfly.

Swamp Daisy

Brachyscome basaltica

Description:

Erect herb to 60cm high. Long narrow branching stems, occasionally forming a clump. Leaves long and narrow to 9cm. Single clear-white daisies with yellow centre to 2.5cm across, held erect on slender stems: up to 45cm high. Can flower most of year, depending on conditions, mainly spring to summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy clay soils.

Special Notes:

Found in wet grasslands and on land that floods, often with River Red Gums. Also called Basalt Daisy.

Photos: Judy Ormond (Top Left, Bottom Left).

Yellow-tongue Daisy

Brachyscome chrysoglossa

Description:

Erect herb to 40cm high. Leafy tuft. Stemless leaves at base to 11cm long, vary in shape with irregular teeth. Bright yellow flowers on leafy branching stems: up to 15cm high. Flowers in spring to mid summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy clay soils.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands.

Yellow Bulbine-lily

Bulbine bulbosa

Description:

Hollow, cylindrical, onion-like leaves in small tuft: up to 30cm. Flower stalks: up to 60cm high. Bright yellow six-petalled flowers (technically 3 petals and 3 sepals that look identical), fragrant, clustered pyramidally, opening in succession along stem in spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy or water-retentive soils but adaptable to a wide range of soils. May self-seed. Dies down after flowering and re-shoots in autumn.

Special Notes:

Aboriginals probably ate bulbous roots year-round.

Blue Caladenia

Caladenia caerulea

Description:

Slender orchid. Single leaf, hairy. Flowers have five petals with a large central labellum, typically spring to early summer. Colouring variable but can be vivid with striking patterns. Labellum has small ornate outgrowths (calli).

R

Cultivation:

Do not disturb.

Special Notes:

Calli often act as tactile guides for pollination carried out by the attempt of brightly coloured native wasps of the sub-family *Thynninae* to copulate with the *Caladenias* labellum.

Lemon Beauty-heads

Calocephalus citreus

Description:

Silvery tufted perennial. Pointed, linear leaves. Fine wiry flower stalks emerge from leaves with bright yellow oval flower heads born terminally: up to 40cm. Flowers in spring to summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers loamy and clay soils that flood occasionally. If in garden, may cut back after flowering, will re-shoot in winter. May self-seed. Very hardy once established.

Special Notes:

Found in lowland grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Cut-leaf Burr-daisy

Calotis anthemoides

Description:

Hairless, fine-leafed tuft: up to 20cm. Narrow pale-green leaves at base, narrowly segmented; to 12cm long. Flower stalks to 20cm long. White flowers with yellow centre borne terminally: up to 1.5cm across. Flowers in spring. The burr is the prickly seed head formed.

Cultivation:

Prefers heavy soils. Plants spread by runners.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands.

Rough Burr-daisy

Calotis scabiosifolia

Description:

Hairy leafed tuft: up to 45cm. Leaves at base to 18cm long, usually toothed. Flower stalks with small narrow leaves to 2.5cm long, along stems. White or mauve flowers with yellow centres borne terminally in late winter to early spring: up to 3cm across. Fruiting in late spring. Spreads by stems that form roots. The burr is the prickly seed head formed.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy soils.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands.

Plains Sedge

Carex bichenoviana

Description:

Rush-like tussock with slender green leaves. Brown flower spikes.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers moist conditions.

Special Notes:

Suitable for planting along drainage lines. Useful for preventing creek bank erosion at bank/water interface and for slowing water movement.

Photos: Judy Ormond.

Hollow Sedge

Carex tereticaulis

Description:

Rush-like tussock with slender green leaves: up to 2m. Brown flower spikes.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers moist conditions.

Special Notes:

Found on pond and watercourse edges and in swamps and wetlands. Suitable for planting around effluent disposal fields and drainage lines. Useful for preventing creek bank erosion at bank/water interface and for slowing water movement.

Aboriginal use: Green stems were split for their fibre and used to make baskets and string.

Photos: Janet Hagen (Main).
Bruce Wehner (Left).

Common Sneezewood

Centipeda cunninghamii

Description:

Small plant: up to 20cm Leaves light green, toothed and strongly aromatic. Flowers globular, green to yellow in summer autumn.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers moist conditions in full sun. Fast growing. Semi dormant in winter.

Special Notes:

Found on ponds and watercourse edges and in swamps and wetlands. If in garden, can respond well to occasional pruning.

Aboriginals used medicinally to treat colds and skin infections and as a general tonic. Also called Scentwood or Old Man Weed.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Common Everlasting

Chrysocephalum apiculatum s.l.

Description:

Dense silvery-leafed plant that can be low and spreading or erect: 7-60cm. Leaves variably shaped but with dense white hairs. Bright golden flowers borne as terminal clusters on flower stalks: up to 1.5cm across. Can flower most of year, but principally during late winter to spring. Seeding in summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Fast growing and adaptable. Longer flowering in full sun. If in garden, may respond well to pruning. May die back in dry conditions but re-shoots well after rain.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands.

Pink Bindweed

Convolvulus erubescens s.l.

Description:

Small trailing plant. Grey-green leaves usually spade shaped with irregular teeth. Showy open pink flowers borne along stems in spring to summer: up to 2cm across.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Flowers prefer full sun.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands, woodlands and forests. Aboriginals ate starchy root roasted, also used boiled plant extracts to treat stomach pains. European Bindweed *(Convolvulus arvensis)* is very similar but generally much larger. Also called Blushing Bindweed.

Photos: Janet Hagen (Bottom Right).

Black-anther Flax-lily

Dianella revoluta s.l.

Description:

Tall greyish tussock: up to 1m high and 6m across. Leaves long and strap like. Vivid blue star-shaped flowers with bright yellow stamens and black/brown anthers in spring. Small shiny blue oval fruit in summer.

Cultivation:

Suits most conditions.
Can persist in degraded areas.

Special Notes:

Found in drier forests, woodlands and grasslands, often with Grey Box. Also along creek banks. Aboriginals used leaf fibre for baskets and cord and the berries for food and dye. Good for garden use.

Other Dianella species: *Dianella longifolia* with pale blue flower.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Bottom Left).

Nodding Saltbush

Einadia nutans

Description:

Trailing or climbing perennial. Small grey-green arrowhead-shaped leaves borne along long stems. Inconspicuous small flowers borne on short spikes at the end of stems. Fleshy red, orange or even yellow berries in small clusters.

Cultivation:

Suits most conditions.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands. Berries are edible.

Food for caterpillar of Chequered Blue Butterfly.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main, Top Right).

Common Spike-sedge

Eleocharis acuta

Description:

Upright plant: up to 90cm. Erect hollow stems. Leaves smooth tubular sheaths. Flowerheads dark brown single spikelet in spring -autumn.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Fast growing. Prefers clay soil and wet or moist conditions. Prefers still to slow flowing fresh water: up to 45cm deep, permanent or seasonally wet sites.

Special Notes:

Found in swamps and wetlands, creeks and irrigation channels. Useful for dams and garden ponds and along watercourses. Filter plant and excellent for bank stabilisation. Can form dense growth.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Ruby Saltbush

Enchylaena tomentosa

Description:

Prostrate spreading perennial forming large mats. Small fleshy leaves borne along long stems blue-green to grey-green. Small flowers borne singly where leaf joins stem. Small tomato-shaped fruit initially green, becoming bright distinctive ruby colour most often, although can also be mauve-red or yellow, drying to black colour.

Cultivation:

Suits most conditions. Can persist in degraded areas.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands. Berries are edible. Was an important food plant for Aboriginals.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main).

Blue Devil

Eryngium ovinum

Description:

Upright spiky plant. Soft green deeply-toothed leaves at base of plant from which arises stiffly erect ribbed stems: up to 60cm. Prickly blue cone-shaped flowers in clusters: from spring to summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy damp soils or areas prone to flooding. Dies down over winter.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Often mistaken as a weed, especially when not in flower.

Wax-lip

Glossodia major

Description:

Slender orchid. Single leaf from base of plant is oblong to tapering at each end. Purple-blue to white five-petalled flowers borne terminally (when blue, base of labellum is white) with prominent yellow callus, in spring. Flowers may be single or paired.

Cultivation:

Do not disturb.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands, woodlands and forests.

Also called Parson-in-the-pulpit.

Aboriginal use: The starchy tubers were eaten.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Variable Glycine

Glycine tabacina

Description:

Small scrambler or climber: to 50cm high. Slightly hairy. Leaves trifoliate.

Blue to mauve flowers straight, from spring to autumn.

Cultivation:

Prefers dry well drained soil. Full sun. Palatable to stock.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands or grassy woodlands. Fixes nitrogen. Roots edible. Useful garden groundcover. Food for butterfly caterpillars.

Similar species: Twining glycine.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main, Bottom Left).
Phil Hunter (Top Left).

Goodenia

Goodenia spp.

Description:

Prostrate to erect plant: up to 1m high. Dark green leaves, often toothed, form tuft at base of plant. Flower stalks generally arise above leaves. Bright yellow flowers with five petals fused at centre: at various times of year. Globular fruit containing many small seeds, heavy, bends flower stalk.

Cultivation:

Can be perennial or annual. Tough and adaptive. Responds well after spring rain. If in garden, may respond well to pruning.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands.

Photos: Janet Hagen (Main).

Yellow Star

Hypoxis glabella

Description:

Small erect grass-like tuft. Bright shiny green narrow leaves arise from underground tuber: up to 6cm high. Flower stalk same height or shorter than leaves. Bright star-shaped yellow flowers borne singly or occasionally paired, with six petals (technically 3 petals and 3 sepals that look identical): one to three flowers per plant in winter to early spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial.

Special Notes:

Once common in grasslands and forests. Now only occurs in high quality grasslands and woodlands.

Also called Tiny Star.

Native Rushes

Juncus spp.

Description:

Erect or spreading grey/olive-green rushes. Narrow cylindrical leaves either hollow or pithy, forming clumps to dense thickets. Flower spike at same height or higher than leaves. Small pale-coloured flowers throughout year ranging from densely clustered to spreading.

Cultivation:

Can be perennial or annual. Often prefer heavy soils such as clay and clay loams.

Special Notes:

Useful for controlling soil erosion along watercourses and around dams. Some suitable for planting around effluent disposal fields.

Photos: Keith Ward (Main).

Scaly Buttons

Leptorhynchos squamatus

Description:

Low growing wiry plant. Green tapering leaves slightly hairy, attached to wiry stems that are initially prostrate, then become erect. Flower stalks arise above leaves: up to 6cm. Bright yellow flower-heads with yellow florets overlapping pale green bell-shaped base to form a flat disc on top; in spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavier soils, especially in low lying areas. Prefers full sun. If in garden, may prune hard in growing season to rejuvenate.

Special Notes:

Found in grassland, heathlands and woodlands.

Native Flax

Linum marginale

Description:

Erect spindly plant: up to 60cm. Small smooth narrow tapered leaves grow along erect wiry stems. Open blue (occasionally white) flowers with five petals borne in loose terminal clusters in spring. Round five-celled fruit papery.

Cultivation:

Perennial. May be short-lived but often self-seeds.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands, grassy woodlands and open forests. Aboriginals used fibrous parts of the plant for making cords and nets; seeds were used for food.

Photos: Judy Ormond (Bottom Right).

Wattle Mat-rush

Lomandra filiformis

Description:

Dense tufted perennial herb: up to 40cm tall. Leaves tough narrow pointed, green to blue green growing in short clumps to 50cm across. Flowers creamy or yellow globes (like wattle flowers) on flower spike, occur in spring. Runners from base.

Cultivation:

Hardy. Prefers well drained soil, full sun to semi shade.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands.

In garden, plant in groups or for edging.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Bluebush

Maireana spp.

Description:

Blue-green plant, can be prostrate or erect. Pointed green leaves often fleshy, along stems. Insignificant solitary flowers borne at leaf base on ends of stems in spring. Fruit capsule often winged, seeding in dry summers.

Cultivation:

Prefers heavy soils such as clays.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands. There are several species of Bluebush in this area.

Common Nardoo

Marsilea drummondii

Description:

Grows in low, wide clump. Single large leaf grows on a thin wiry stem: up to 20cm long. Green leaves given grey-green appearance by fine hairs; circular, divided into four, giving a clover-like appearance. No flowers. Hard fawn-brown spore case is bean-seed shaped: up to 1cm long.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers shallow water, muddy sediments and damp soils.

Special Notes:

Nardoo is a native fern, so has no flowers or seeds; reproducing via spores. Found along Murray River and adjacent waterways, in areas prone to inundation.

Creeping Mint

Mentha satureoides

Description:

Small erect plant to 15cm. Spreading perennial herb to 60cm. Stems square, Leaves narrow light green to 1cm. Emits peppermint smell when crushed. Flowers small white in clusters mainly in summer to autumn.

Culitivation:

Perennial herb. Damp areas. Full sun to light shade. Prefers clay or clay loams.

Special Notes

Found in grassy and open woodland. Good groundcover. Was used as a tea for medicinal purposes.

Also known as Native Pennyroyal.

Similar species: *Mentha australis* and *Mentha diemenica*

Photos: Wendy D'Amore (Main, Right). Judy Ormond (Bottom Left).

Yam Daisy

Microseris lanceolata

Description:

A short tufted plant with dandelion-like flower. Dark green tapering leaves forming small tuft. Leafless flower stalk: up to 30cm long, arises from leaves at base. Single bright yellow flower terminally borne - stalks droop when in bud, erect when in flower; mid-winter to spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Dies back.

Special Notes:

Once common. Root tubers were eaten by Aboriginals and probably formed a major part of their diet. Murnong is the Aboriginal name.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Slender Monkey-flower

Mimulus gracilis

Description:

Slender plant: up to 25cm. Stems arise singly. Shiny dark-green oblong-shaped leaves grow in pairs along stem. Flower stalk arises from leaf/stem junction. Open mauve flowers with short tube and rounded petals borne singly in winter to summer.

Cultivation:

Prefers grey soil. Prefers moist conditions.

Special Notes:

Found on swamp margins, paddock depressions and other wet areas. Most abundant after heavy rains.

Photos: Judy Ormond (Main).

Smooth Minuria

Minuria integerrima

Description:

Small erect herb, 20-40cm high. Bright green linear or tapering leaves forming loose tussocks. Short flower stalks arise from end of branches. Single white to pale mauve flowers with yellow centre; in spring to early summer. Narrow seeds topped with long bristles.

Cultivation:

Perennial.

Prefers clay to loamy soils in low lying areas.

Special Notes:

Occurs as scattered plants or small colonies, often in shallow water or mud.

Photos: Sharon Terry.

Curved Rice-flower

Pimelia curviflora

Description:

Perennial herb or erect small shrub: up to 0.5m. Little branched with small hairy dull green leaves.

Tubular flowers yellowish green in many flowered head, mainly in spring.

Cultivation:

Prefers well drained sandy loam soil. Prefers full sun for best flowering.

Special Notes:

Found in woodlands and grasslands.

Ornamental, plant in groups. In garden prune to shape.

Photos: Judy Ormond.

Lambs Tails

Ptilotus exaltatus

Description:

Erect hairy plant: up to 30cm. Variable leaves tapered to egg-shaped, broader at base with leaves on branches and flower stems narrower and smaller. Purplish individual flowers straight and covered with silky hairs, collectively forming a hemispherical to oval shape, from winter to early summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial.

Prefers clay and clay loams.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands. Often found in low lying areas.

Mulla Mulla is the aboriginal name.

Pussy Tails

Ptilotus spathulatus

Description:

Small prostrate plant. Dark green spoon-shaped fleshy leaves, mainly at base of plant, but also along hairy stems. Greenish-yellow individual flowers cylindrical in shape, curve up from base to collectively form cone shape, late winter to early summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers clays and clay loams.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Foliage may dry off in mid summer, depending on conditions.

Photos: Gary Deayton (Main).

Drumsticks

Pycnosorus globosus

Description:

Silver-grey erect tussock: up to 1m. Narrow silvery leaves: up to 20cm long becoming shorter along erect stems. Flower stems erect: up to 1m high. Oval to globular golden-yellow flower-head: up to 4cm across, spring to summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy soils. Prefers moist conditions. If in garden, cutting flowers may promote new growth and second flowering.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Australian Buttercup

Ranunculus lappaceus

Description:

Small plant to 20cm. Shiny divided leaves. Shiny golden yellow flowers with 5 petals on stems to 50cm tall. Flowers spring summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Grows in range of soils. Prefers full sun or part shade and damp conditions or occasional flooding.

Special notes:

Found in grassy woodlands. Also known as Common Buttercup.

Similar species: *Ranunculus inundatus*, River Buttercup.

Suitable for garden.

Photos: Judy Ormond (Main, Top Right).

Creamy Candles

Stackhousia monogyna

Description:

Simple structured erect plant. Narrow green linear leaves clustered along lower stems. Creamy five-petalled flowers surround top of stem forming ‘candles’ up to 10cm long in spring to early summer. Nocturnally fragrant.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Dies back to root stock over summer. Can form dense localised colonies.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands. Recovers quickly after fire.

Photos: Judy Ormond.

Broughton Pea

Swainsona procumbens

Description:

Low spreading plant: up to 50cm. Green feather-like leaves from base of plant are hairless on upper surface, occasionally hairy beneath. Large, sweet scented, mauve to blue pea-like flowers with yellow tip to the keel which is coiled into a full circle in spikes of 3-9; in late winter to early spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy soils. Flowers profusely following good winter rain.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Photos: Keith Ward (Main).

Leafy Templetonia

Templetonia stenophylla

Description:

Low straggling plant with one to several stems: up to 60cm. Green linear leaves. Dark purplish wedge-shaped buds opening to creamy yellow pea-like flowers with red-brown and green centres in spring.

Cultivation:

Prefers loam soils.

Special Notes:

Found in dry forests and woodlands, mostly along creek and riverbanks. Fixes nitrogen.

Grey Germander

Teucrium racemosum

Description:

Small grey-green plant, can be single stemmed or in tufts: up to 25cm. Narrow grey oval leaves with undulating margins on short stalks along square stems. Short flower stalk arises from leaf/stem junction. Five-lobed unusually shaped flowers and fine arching stamens in spring to autumn.

Cultivation:

Prefers grey soils.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands. Often found along channel or drain banks.

Photos: Sharon Terry (Main).
Wendy D'Amore (Bottom Right).

New Holland Daisy

Vittadinia spp.

Description:

Erect branched silvery small shrub: up to 40cm. Grey-green leaves along stems are variably shaped. Small pale blue to mauve flowers borne terminally for most of year, usually in early spring in northern Victoria and southern New South Wales. Narrow ribbed fruits.

Cultivation:

Can be perennial or annual. Requires well drained soils.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Photos: Phil Hunter (Main).

Native Bluebell

Wahlenbergia spp.

Description:

Erect or sprawling perennial herb: up to 30cm high. Multi branched fine stems with narrow green leaves forming a clump. Blue to mauve star shaped flowers in spring to summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Grows in range of soils. Full sun to shade. Summer growing.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands, woodlands and forests. Ornamental, flowers edible.

In garden plant in groups.

Photos: Wendy D'Amore.

Common Early Nancy

Wurmbea dioica

Description:

Slender plant with distinctive flowers: up to 10-12cm. Fleshy bright green narrow leaves from base. White six-petalled open flower with distinctive band of purple encircling centre: in groups of three to five in winter to early spring. Seeds in spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial that dies back and re-sprouts annually from tuber. Prefers grey soils.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands. In arid areas, flowers can be greenish-yellow. Also called Bulls-eye.

References/Further Reading

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Best Management Practice

Best management practice of native vegetation is often about being aware of the needs of the vegetation.

Example 1: If you graze your land, then manage grazing as a tool to benefit native vegetation. For example:

- Graze when weeds are flowering, not during the flowering times of native ground covers or shrubs.
- Never graze when the ground is wet, or pugging and soil degradation may result.
- Seek advice for the best times to graze.

Example 2: If you have native terrestrial plants that don't like getting their feet wet, such as Grey Box, then minimise the amount of irrigation water run-off that reaches the native vegetation. This can be done through efficient irrigation and use of drains to remove irrigation tailwater. This leads to more efficient water use (and hopefully lower water bills) and reduces salinity.

Example 3: Manage weeds. Native plants have a competitive advantage over most weeds in poorer soils. In areas where nitrogen and phosphorus are enhanced through drift from fertilisers, weeds are more likely to out-compete local species. By having a buffer that minimises fertiliser drift, native plants will be much more competitive. Where possible, control weeds already present to give native vegetation a head start.

Monitor the effects of your management plan and revise what you do accordingly.

Funding Opportunities

There are many different types of funding opportunities available for natural resource management in the region.

For further information and a no-obligation discussion phone the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority on 03 5820 1100 or email **reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au**. Website: **www.gbcma.vic.gov.au**.

Index of common and botanical names

Form: T = Tree, S = Shrub, Gr = Grasses, G = Groundcover, M = Mistletoe (in tree section)

Useful Contacts

Goulburn Murray Landcare Network

Email: gmln@iinet.net.au
Ph: 03 58213530 or Mobile: 0447 321 140

Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network

Ph: 03 57611644

Lower Goulburn Conservation Management Network

Ph: 0408103066

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Website: www.gbcma.vic.gov.au
Email: reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au
Ph: 03 5820 1100

Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seed Bank

Ph: 03 58 335222

Revegetation/Native Vegetation

Website: www.dpi.vic.gov.au
DPI Tatura – Ph 03 5833 5222

Website: www.dse.vic.gov.au
DSE Benalla – Ph 03 5761 1611

Greater Shepparton City Council

Website: www.greatershepparton.com.au
Email: council@shepparton.vic.gov.au
Ph: 03 5832 9700

Moira Shire Council

Website: www.moira.vic.gov.au
Email: webmaster@moira.vic.gov.au
Ph: 03 5871 9222

Shire of Campaspe

Website: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au
Email: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au
Ph: 03 5481 2200