



Indigenous Planting Guide

Sustainable gardening with local plants

Why should I plant indigenous plants?

Garden plants are Australia's largest source of agricultural and environmental weeds.

With around 3000 species of non-local garden escapee plants invading our natural bush, roadsides, gardens and agricultural land across Australia, it is important that what you plant in your garden does not contribute to this problem.

Indigenous plants from your local area are best adapted to survive the prevailing climate, topography and soils. They often require minimal maintenance, very little fertiliser and water making for a low maintenance garden.

They can provide important habitat for local birds, insects and other animals and are not likely to turn

'weedy'. You may be surprised by what can be created using plant species from your local area.

Where can I source indigenous plants?

Many nurseries now stock indigenous plants with some specialising in this field. Alternatively, you can propagate and plant indigenous plants from seed you have collected yourself from the local area.

When considering what to plant, ask if there is a local native species which would fill your need. When visiting your local nursery, be sure you ask for local native plants grown from locally sourced seed. As some plants can be difficult to propagate or may not always be available it may be worthwhile speaking with your supplier in advance.

Can I grow my own natives from seed or cuttings?

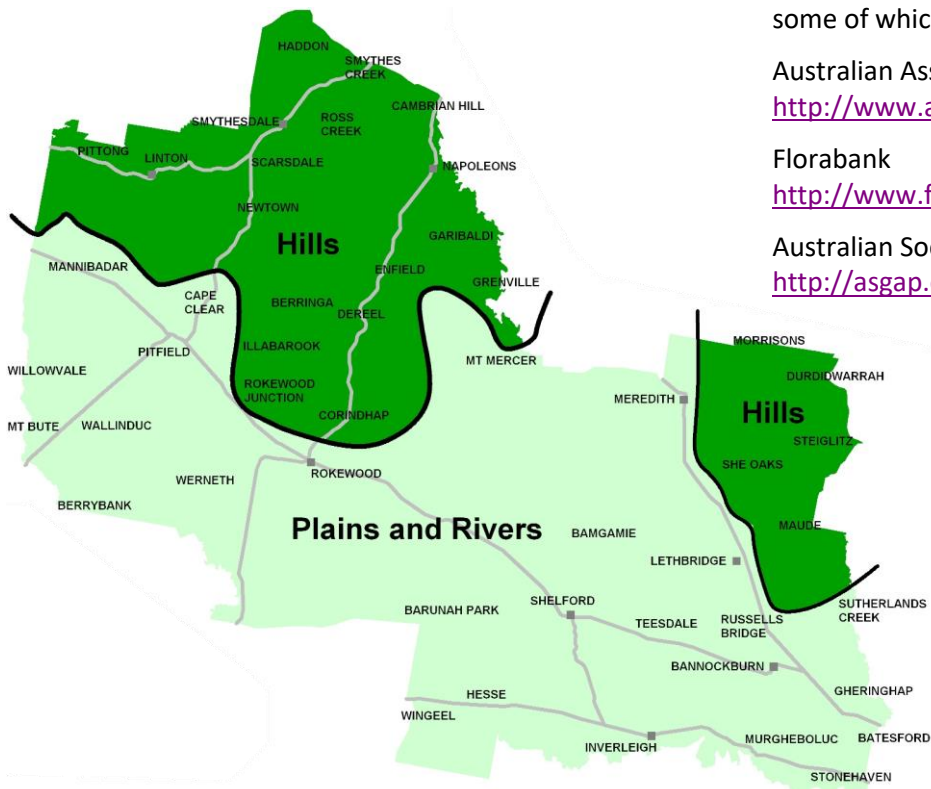
Growing your own natives from seed or cuttings can be a frustrating pastime as some native seed requires special treatment to germinate. However, with a little patience and persistence, wonderful results can be achieved. For information to assist you with collecting and propagating seed, visit the Florabank website at <http://www.florabank.org.au>

Do I need a permit to collect local plants and seed?

For collection of plant material from **any public land**, and even for collection from private land in some instances, **you need to obtain a permit** from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

These permits are used by government agencies to avoid over-collection of seed or propagation material from sensitive plant species. The type of permit required can vary, depending on the plants you wish to collect from, and also on the "management status" of the land.

It pays to check with the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning on 136186 before collecting.



Which plants suit the area in which I live?

Two Planting Guides have been produced for the two major regions in the Shire; Hills zone and Plains and Rivers zone, of the Golden Plains Shire.

These sheets provide information on the vegetation that exists in your area and a list of plants that may suit your garden needs.

Local nurseries

There are several local nurseries that should be able to help you with plant selection. Check the telephone directory for listings in your area.

Where can I find more information on indigenous plants?

Your local bushland reserve Friends group or Committee of Management can be a great source of advice about which plants occur in your local area. Also check with your local plant nursery or speak with Councils Natural Resources Officers.

There are also many web based information sources which will help you with plant selection and propagation, some of which are listed below.

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators
<http://www.aabr.org.au/>

Florabank
<http://www.florabank.org.au>

Australian Society for the Growing of Australian Plants
<http://asgap.org.au/>