

# Plants of the Gwydir Shire

Volume 1

North West Slopes  
of New South Wales

John Hodge and  
Michelle McKemey



Local Land  
Services  
Northern Tablelands



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## *Preface by the author*

I first became interested in the flora of the Gwydir Shire after I had an operation and was told to go walking to strengthen my stomach muscles. I found walking along the same track rather boring so I started walking old roads that meander through the bush. That was when I found a Cycad cone and became interested in flora.

At the start of this I was mainly interested in Cycads until the Gwydir Shire Council put an advertisement in the paper for ideas of interest for tourism. There are already old tracks that meander through the bush around Warialda that were put there by people that lived there through the depression and some up until the early sixties. There are still old water tanks and remnants of the old camps that remain until this day.

That was when I got the idea of using the old roads for flower walks. I put the idea to Council and Leah Daly said that they would go ahead with the idea. They got in touch with the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (formerly Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority) at Inverell and they had their botanist, who at that time was Greg Steenbeeke, come down and identify about fifty plant species. At that time I had no digital camera and no computer, so that was the start of putting this book together. I cannot thank the Local Land Services in Inverell enough for their help and understanding for what I wanted to achieve.

I would especially like to thank Liz and Mark Blair because without their help this would never have happened. I would also like to thank Glen Pereira of the Gwydir Shire for his encouragement to keep going with this project because there were times when I was going to walk away from this, so thanks Glen. Special thanks to my family for the computer to start me on the road of this project. But most of all special thanks to Lachlan Copeland for his help in identifying these plants.

I hope you enjoy learning about the plants of the Gwydir Shire!

*John Hodge*

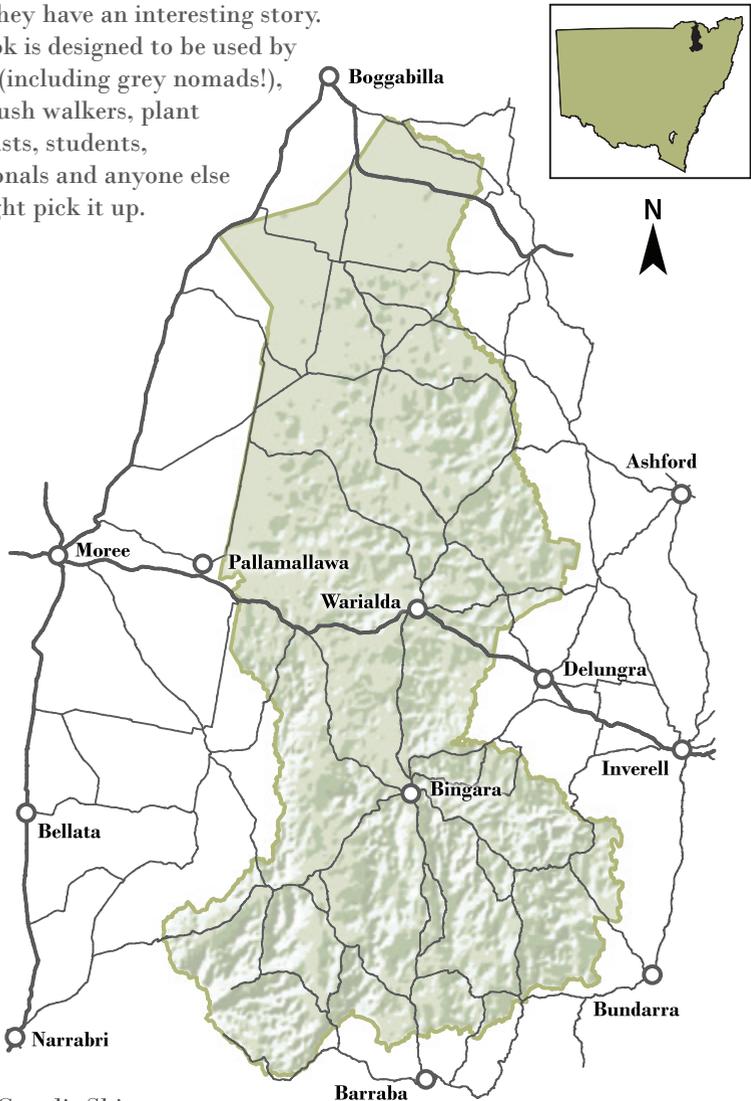
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# About this book

Plants of the Gwydir Shire: Volume 1 presents a selection of native plant species found growing in Warialda and the surrounding areas of the Gwydir Shire, on the north west slopes of New South Wales (Map 1). In these areas you can find beautiful wildflowers, magnificent trees and the mysterious and intriguing Cycad. The plants presented here were chosen either because they are common and easy to find, beautiful and/or they have an interesting story.

This book is designed to be used by tourists (including grey nomads!), locals, bush walkers, plant enthusiasts, students, professionals and anyone else who might pick it up.



Map 1: Gwydir Shire

# The Gwydir Shire

The Gwydir Shire is located in north-western New South Wales and adjoins the border to Queensland. Two major towns are Bingara and Warialda. Warialda means ‘place of wild honey’ and is said to derive from the tongue of the original inhabitants, the Weraerair Aborigines. The name is thought to be related to the honey that is produced from the abundant pollen of the Smooth-barked apple (*Angophora leiocarpa*). Bees collect large volumes of this pollen which provides a good supply of honey (Gwydir Shire Council 2008).



Smooth-barked apple trees are a signature of the town and provide a welcome to visitors by lining the Gwydir Highway along the eastern entrance to Warialda. They are a glory to behold as the colour of their bark changes with the seasons, from pink and salmon through to red in colour.



The township of Warialda is found on the banks of Reedy Creek, a tributary of the Gwydir River. The Gwydir Shire is a drawcard for tourists and is well known for its excellent bird watching opportunities.



Found on the western side of the Great Dividing Range, the Gwydir Shire is a particularly diverse area as it is where east meets west and temperate meets subtropical, resulting in a wide range of species. The Shire forms part of two bioregions (national descriptions for large-scale geophysical patterns across Australia which are linked to fauna and flora assemblages) including the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar Bioregions (Office of Environment and Heritage 2011).

The Brigalow Belt South Bioregion is located within the eastern subhumid region of Australia with no dry season and a warm summer. It consists of landscapes derived from both extensive basalt flows and quartz sandstones and consequently has very variable soils and vegetation depending on the local rock type or sediment source. The sandstone areas of the bioregion support various forests and woodlands. The birds of the bioregion are highly diverse, mainly consisting of tropical woodland species and comprising the largest number of Australian resident species of any bioregion (Office of Environment and Heritage 2011).

The Nandewar Bioregion is considered to be warm and dry, although average annual temperatures and rainfall vary markedly across the bioregion in relation to elevation. The central areas, such as the Nandewar Range, are generally cooler as they tend to have a higher elevation, whereas the warmer areas correspond to the lowlands around the major rivers. The hilly landscapes are warmer but drier than the tablelands and carry vegetation communities more typical of the western slopes, with some tableland species. The vegetation of the Nandewar Bioregion is influenced primarily by geology and the influence of altitude on temperature and rainfall. The bioregion is characterised by box woodlands that occur on clay or loam soils, typically at low to mid elevation in agriculturally productive areas. More than 60 rare or threatened species have been recorded from the Nandewar Bioregion. At least 467 vertebrate animal species are known to occur in the bioregion (Office of Environment and Heritage 2011).

# An introduction to botany

Plants underpin almost all animal life on Earth by generating a large proportion of the oxygen and food that provide humans and other organisms with the chemical energy they need to exist. Botany is the study of plants and their interactions, structures, distribution, classification and more. Botany comes with its own set of terms that are important to understand if we are to learn more about the plants in our local environment.

## Community structure

Plants exist as part of an ecological community, which in the Gwydir Shire, can usually be classified as one of the following:

- **Forest:** a plant community dominated by long-boled (trunk of a tree below the lowest branch) trees in close proximity. For example, a sclerophyll forest is a typically Australian vegetation type having plants (such as eucalypts and wattles) with hard, short and often spiky leaves, which is a condition closely associated with low soil fertility. A rainforest is a forest dominated by broad-leaved trees with dense crowns that form a continuous layer (canopy)
- **Woodland:** a plant community dominated by short-boled trees (usually species of eucalypts) that are separated from each other and with grasses and other herbs forming a more or less continuous ground cover between them



Diagram 1: Vegetation profile drawing for open forest and woodland found on rises, hills, crests and ridges around Warialda (Miller et al. 2013)

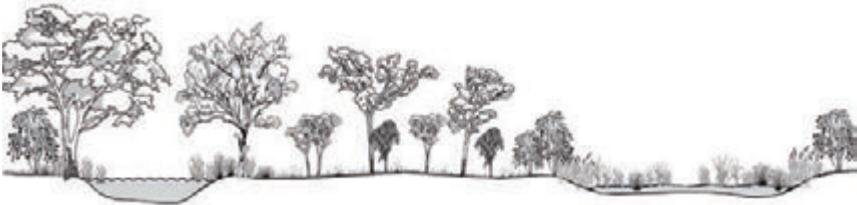


Diagram 2: Vegetation profile drawing for open forest, woodland and wetland found near rivers and alluvial flats around Warialda (Miller et al. 2013)

- **Shrubland:** a plant community dominated by shrubs which often also includes an understorey of grasses and herbs
- **Grassland:** low vegetation dominated by grasses
- **Wetland:** a plant community which grows on land that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, often dominated by aquatic plants or water loving plants
- **Heath:** a plant community found mainly on low-quality, acidic soils and dominated by small, closely spaced shrubs, most of which have stiff and often small leaves.

## Taxonomy

Plant taxonomy relates to the naming of plants such as a species, genus and family name. In this book, plants are classified under their genus and species name (e.g. *Eucalyptus albens*). This is known as a plant's scientific name. Latin is used to provide a unique name that can only be used for that particular species. Common names can vary and one plant can have several common names or several plant species can share a common name. For this reason, a scientific name is a more reliable name to use.

## Families

The family name is shown for each plant. Family groupings can tell us something about the broad characteristics of a plant, for example:

- **Myrtaceae:** the Myrtle family which includes eucalypts and many other plants
- **Fabaceae:** the Pea family which are nitrogen-fixing legumes, vital to ecosystems around the world
- **Orchidaceae:** the Orchid family of flowering plants with blooms that are often colourful and fragrant
- **Asteraceae:** the Daisy family which along with Orchidaceae form the two largest families of flowering plants (with between 21,950 and 26,049 currently accepted species)
- **Ericaceae:** the Heath family of flowering plants found most commonly in acid and infertile growing conditions
- **Poaceae:** the Grass family.

# Parts

Plants have several different parts which are important to consider when identifying a plant. These can include:

- **Leaf:** a flattened structure of a higher plant, typically green and blade-like, that is attached to a stem directly or via a stalk. Leaves are the main organs of photosynthesis and transpiration
- **Bark:** the hard outer covering of a tree
- **Flower:** the reproductive structure of some seed-bearing plants, characteristically having either specialised male or female organs or both male and female organs, such as stamens and a pistil, enclosed in an outer envelope of petals and sepals
- **Fruit:** the seed-bearing structure in flowering plants formed from the ovary after flowering
- **Seed:** a small embryonic plant enclosed in a covering called the seed coat, usually with some stored food
- **Seed pod:** a seed vessel or dehiscent (opening at maturity to release the contents) fruit that splits when ripe.



Diagram 4: Example of Western silver wattle (*Acacia decora*) leaf, flower and seed pod

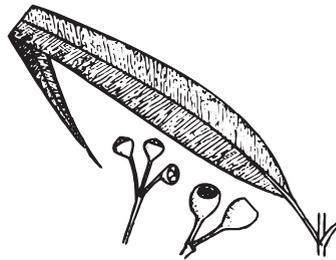


Diagram 5: Example of Smooth-barked apple (*Angophora leiocarpa*) leaf, flower bud and fruit

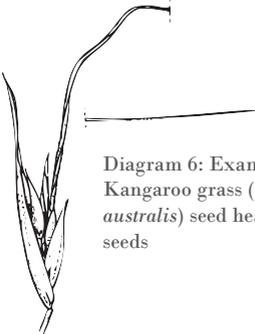


Diagram 6: Example of Kangaroo grass (*Themeda australis*) seed head with seeds

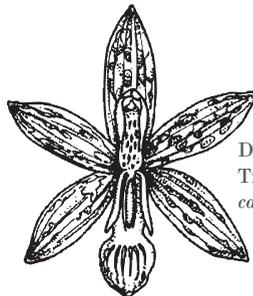


Diagram 7: Example of Tiger orchid (*Cymbidium canaliculatum*) flower

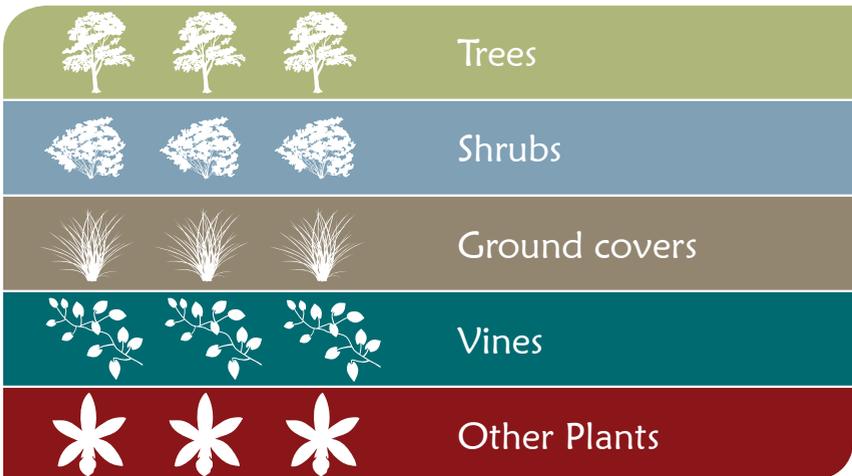
# How to use this book

This book is intended to be user-friendly and to showcase a selection of some of the interesting and/or common native plant species of the Gwydir Shire.

If you would like to identify a plant:

1. Find a plant specimen and pay close attention to its leaves, flowers, fruit, bark, form and overall appearance, as well as where you found it growing.
2. Work out what form of plant you are looking at:
  - **Tree:** a plant having a permanently woody main stem or trunk, ordinarily growing to a considerable height and usually developing branches at some distance from the ground
  - **Shrub:** a woody plant which is smaller than a tree and has several main stems arising at or near the ground
  - **Ground cover:** low growing, often spreading, plants including herbs and grasses
  - **Vine:** a plant that has very long stems and that grows along the ground or up and around something (such as a fence or tree), including creepers and scramblers
  - **Other plants:** plants that don't fit into the other categories, such as parasites, epiphytes (plants that grow on other plants) and others.

Turn to the section where that form of plant is found. The sections are colour coded to make things easier.





3. Have a look at the plant photos to see which plant species your specimen most closely resembles. Photos usually show the habit (the general appearance of a plant including size, shape and growth form), flowers, leaves, fruit and/or seeds of a plant.
4. Read the plant distribution to see if that plant species is located in the area where you found your specimen. If not, try another plant.
5. Read the plant description to see if your specimen fits the description for the plant species you think it might be. If not, try another plant.
6. If you think the plant form, plant photos, plant distribution and plant description match your plant specimen, then this could be your species!

Remember, it may also be a species which is not presented in Plants of the Gwydir Shire Volume 1 as not all species from the area have been included. For more information visit NSW Flora Online [plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au) or drop into a Local Land Services office.

The authors and publisher would like to acknowledge the wonderful resource provided by NSW Flora Online and note that much of the information presented in the species profiles is drawn from this resource.

Do you know your plants? If you know the common or scientific name of a plant you can look it up in the Index and turn to the right page straight away.

***Please note that although some plant species are listed as edible, it is not recommended that you eat these plants.***



# Trees



*Eucalyptus melanophloia*

# Rough-barked Apple

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Angophora floribunda</i>
<b>Family name</b>	MYRTACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Apple
<b>Description</b>	Tree to 30m high. Bark persistent, grey, shortly fibrous. Leaves 8 to 12cm long. Flowers cream-white. Fruit are ribbed.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widely scattered and locally abundant, usually on deep alluvial sandy soils.
<b>Notes</b>	Distinguished by its crooked branches. Sometimes used as an indicator of underground water. People may dig wells near the Rough-barked apple tree. Also provides important wildlife habitat.



# Smooth-barked Apple

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Angophora leiocarpa</i>
<b>Family name</b>	MYRTACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Apple gum
<b>Description</b>	A tree native to eastern Australia growing to 25m high. It has smooth bark, shedding in small scales of pink, grey and cream revealing pink to red underneath. Leaves 7 to 14cm long.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widely scattered and locally abundant, on deep alluvial sandy soils or sandy soils on sandstone north from Grafton and Narrabri districts to Warialda.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Summer, cream flowers are a beautiful contrast to the pink to red bark. Signature species of the Warialda township. Rainbow lorikeets love to feed on the nectar of this tree.



# Mugga Ironbark

**Scientific name** *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*

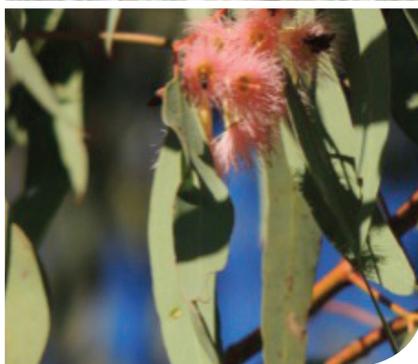
**Family name** MYRTACEAE

**Other names** Mugga, Red ironbark

**Description** Medium tree to 35m high with broad-domed crown. The bark is hard grey to black and deeply furrowed. The trunk is half the height of the tree with green to grey-green narrow leaves. The upper branches are smooth and can be whitish to red-brown to brown-black in colour.

**Distribution** On low ridges with gravelly-loam soils. Distribution is widespread on the western slopes and plains of NSW south into north-central Vic and wide but sporadic in south-eastern Qld.

**Notes** Flowers early Autumn to mid Spring. The flowers can be pink, red, cream or white. An important habitat tree for the endangered Regent honeyeater.



# Silver-leaved Ironbark

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>
<b>Family name</b>	MYRTACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Broad-leaved ironbark
<b>Description</b>	Tree to 20m high. It has deeply furrowed grey-black bark persistent throughout and silvery-blue egg-shaped leaves. White to cream flowers.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread and abundant, in grassy or sclerophyll woodland on lighter soils north from Dubbo. Also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers Spring to Summer. Ironbark timber is very hard and has been used for fences, railway sleepers, building and more.



# White Box

**Scientific name** *Eucalyptus albens*

**Family name** MYRTACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Tree to 25m. Bark persistent on full trunk, grey with whitish patches and fibrous-flaky (box). Bark smooth above and grey, shedding in short ribbons. Leaves are slate-grey to blue-grey in colour.

**Distribution** Widespread, community dominant, in grassy or sclerophyll woodland on a range of soils, usually of higher fertility. Chiefly on the western slopes.

**Notes** Often forms part of the nationally critically endangered ecological community Box Gum Grassy Woodland. Australian brush-turkeys nest under White box trees and use the bark and leaves that fall off the tree to produce a compost to hatch the eggs.



# Grey Box

**Scientific name** *Eucalyptus moluccana*

**Family name** MYRTACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Tree to 25m high. Bark persistent on trunk and larger branches, grey with whitish patches, fibrous-flaky (box). Bark smooth above, grey, shedding in short ribbons. Looks similar to White box, leaves are glossier than White box leaves.

**Distribution** Widespread, community dominant, in grassy woodland or forest on loamy soils of moderate to high fertility, north from Nowra.

**Notes** Often forms part of the nationally critically endangered ecological community Box Gum Grassy Woodland.



# Yellow Box

**Scientific name** *Eucalyptus melliodora*

**Family name** MYRTACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Tree to 30m high. Bark persistent on lower trunk and sometimes up to the larger branches, grey or pale brown or yellow-brown, fibrous-flaky (box). Bark smooth above, grey-brown or yellow, shedding in short ribbons.

**Distribution** Widespread and locally frequent, in grassy woodland on moderately fertile often sandy or alluvial soils.

**Notes** Often forms part of the nationally critically endangered ecological community Box Gum Grassy Woodland. Bees harvest pollen to create a beautiful, creamy honey which is highly valued by apiarists (bee keepers).



# Green Mallee

**Scientific name** *Eucalyptus viridis*

**Family name** MYRTACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Multi-stemmed tree or shrub to 10m high. Bark persistent on lower trunk, grey to dark grey, fibrous-flaky (box). Bark smooth above, grey or grey-brown, shedding in short ribbons.

**Distribution** Widespread but localised, in Mallee shrubland on shallow light soils on rocky rises, west from Warialda.

**Notes** Flowers Spring to Summer. Flowers can be white or cream. Its leaves are harvested for cineole based eucalyptus oil. Australian brush-turkeys, a threatened species, nest under Green mallees and use the bark and leaves that fall off the shrub to produce a compost to hatch the eggs.



# Belah

**Scientific name** *Casuarina cristata*

**Family name** CASUARINACEAE

**Other names** Belar, Black oak

**Description** Dioecious (having male and female flowers on different plants) tree 10 to 20m high, frequently producing suckers. Branches drooping in vigorous specimens, spreading in depauperate (poor) specimens. The leaves have evolved into tiny scales along the branchlets.

**Distribution** Usually grows on clayey soils with chalky nodules near the surface. Mostly inland, from central Qld south to Temora.

**Notes** Often associated with black cockatoos. Bilaarr is the Gamilaraay (local Aboriginal dialect) word for both the Belah tree and black cockatoos because the birds are frequently seen feeding in these trees.



Suckering plants

# River Oak

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>
<b>Family Name</b>	CASUARINACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	River sheoak
<b>Description</b>	Dioecious (having male and female flowers on different plants) tree 15 to 35m high with branchlets drooping in healthy specimens, erect in unhealthy specimens. The leaves have evolved into tiny scales along the branchlets.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread throughout NSW except the far west, also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Grows along permanent fresh water streams. Good habitat for birds and can form important wildlife corridors along streams. A useful plant for stabilising eroded stream banks.



Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology

# Stringybark Sheoak

**Scientific name** *Allocasuarina inophloia*

**Family name** CASUARINACEAE

**Other names** Stringybark oak

**Description** A dioecious (having male and female flowers on different plants) small tree between 3 to 10m high, with an open spreading crown. Bark is stringy.

**Distribution** In woodland on ironstone or sandstone ridges from Torrington and Emmaville to Warialda and Yetman. It is also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers June to July. As with other oaks, female and male flowers grow on separate trees, see photos of flowers below. Bark may have been used as a firelighter for Aboriginal people.



# Red Ash

**Scientific name** *Alphitonia excelsa*

**Family name** RHAMNACEAE

**Other names** Soap bush

**Description** A small to medium-sized tree. The buds and young stems are grey to golden-brown, hairy. Black fruit shaped like an egg or ball, 5 to 10mm in diameter. Leaves are dark green and glossy on upper surface, white and hairy on under surface.

**Distribution** On the margin of warmer rainforest on the coast north from Mt Dromedary, also in scrub and open forest, often in sheltered gullies or steep slopes north from Denman and west to the Pilliga scrub and Yetman district.

**Notes** Flowers late Autumn to early Winter. Leaves are often 'holey' due to the large number of insects, including butterfly larvae, which feed on this tree.



# Black Cypress Pine

**Scientific name** *Callitris endlicheri*

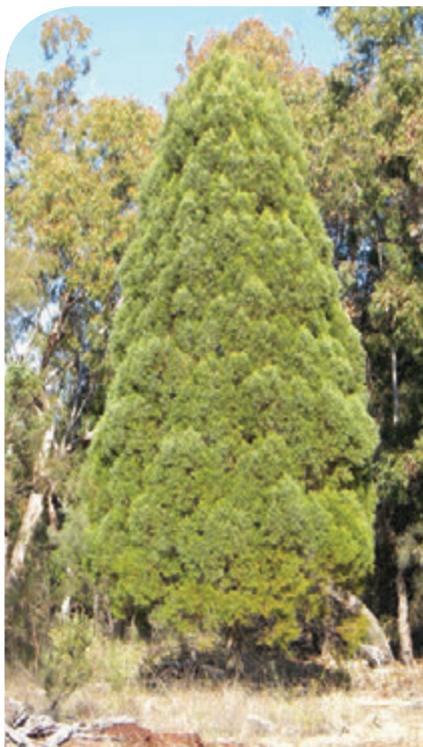
**Family name** CUPRESSACEAE

**Other names** Black pine

**Description** Tree with mostly erect sometimes spreading branches, mostly dark green in colour, bark tough and often deeply furrowed, 'leaves' (sections along the branchlets) 2 to 4mm long.

**Distribution** Usually found on ridges, common from the plains to the coastal ranges. Grows in all eastern mainland states.

**Notes** Flowers Spring to Summer. Looks like a large Christmas tree. Black pine seeds are used by birds for food in Winter time, including Cockatoos, Galahs, King parrots, Red-winged parrots and Eastern rosellas.



# White Cypress Pine

**Scientific name** *Callitris glaucophylla*

**Family name** CUPRESSACEAE

**Other names** White pine

**Description** Tree to 20m high, with a single trunk, bark rough and furrowed, foliage bluish grey.

**Distribution** Widespread, found mostly on sandy soils, from isolated individuals to extensive forest, especially in inland areas.

**Notes** Distinguished from Black cypress pine by paler, duller foliage. Cypress pines sometimes regenerate very densely after disturbance, becoming 'locked up'. If allowed enough time for succession to proceed, the trees will eventually thin themselves out.



# White Cedar

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Melia azedarach</i>
<b>Family name</b>	MELIACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Chinaberry tree, Persian lilac, Cape lilac, Umbrella tree
<b>Description</b>	Small to medium-sized deciduous tree with furrowed bark. Mauve petals 10 to 12mm long. Leaves have serrated edges. Marble sized fruit which are yellow when mature.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in subtropical and dry rainforest, mostly on margins and in regrowth. North from Milton and west to the upper Hunter Valley. Widely cultivated, especially in inland districts. Naturalised in the Warialda district. Native to Australia and Asia.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers in Spring. Produces excellent timber.



# Butterbush

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>
<b>Family name</b>	PITTOSPORACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Berrigan, Weeping pittosporum, Native willow
<b>Description</b>	Small tree to 10m with weeping branches. Bark grey mottled. Leaves shiny, narrow and flat with a small hooked point, 30 to 100mm by 3 to 10mm, thick. Flowers fragrant, cream and small. Petals usually 7 to 10mm long, yellow to cream. Fruit an orange capsule, egg or heart-shaped, with seeds in sticky orange pulp.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in woodland and mallee communities, widespread on sandy soils in the arid zone. Chiefly in inland districts, west from Muswellbrook. Also found in Qld, Vic, SA and NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers Winter to Spring. Fruit and seeds important food for birds such as parrots.



# Kurrajong

**Scientific name** *Brachychiton populneus*

**Family name** MALVACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Tree to 20m with dense, spreading canopy. Thick trunk with smooth, grey bark. Leaves bright shiny-green often with 3 to 5 lobes, 100 to 150mm long by 30 to 80mm wide, on long stalks. Flowers creamy white, bell shaped. Fruit a woody boat shaped pod, green drying to black, splitting on one side to reveal yellow seeds, surrounded by fine dense irritating hairs.

**Distribution** Widespread in forest and woodland, especially on the western slopes. Found throughout NSW, Qld and Vic.

**Notes** Excellent fodder and shade tree. Many uses to the Kamilaroi people, including making twine, drawing water and food.



Photo: K. Coleman



Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology



Photo: M. McKemey

# Shrubs



*Dillwynia sericea*

# Western Silver Wattle

**Scientific name** *Acacia decora*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** Showy wattle, Graceful wattle, Golden wattle

**Description** Erect or spreading shrub usually 1 to 4m high. Branchlets ridged, reddish brown. The flowerheads are 4.5 to 6mm diameter and bright yellow.

**Distribution** Grows in dry sclerophyll forest and open situations in woodlands (including mallee, *Callitris* and box woodlands), scrub and grassland, often in heavy soils or sandy loams, on rocky hillsides.

**Notes** Flowers during April to October with a showy display of vivid yellow flowers.



Photo: L. Copeland



# Sharp Feather Wattle

**Scientific name** *Acacia leptoclada*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** This spreading often spindly shrub grows 1 to 3m high, its branches are sometimes weeping. It has smooth grey or brown bark with branchlets that are tubular and elongated and either hairless or softly hairy. Young flowerheads initially pinkish purple opening to 7 to 12mm diameter, bright or dark yellow flowers.

**Distribution** Grows in dry sclerophyll forest, in sandy, granitic and serpentinite soils. Native to Yetman and Warialda area south to Barraba and to the Guyra district.

**Notes** Flowers August to October. Galls formed on the end of the stem may have been eaten by Aboriginal people.



# Umbrella Wattle

**Scientific name** *Acacia oswaldii*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** Milgee

**Description** Erect or spreading tree or shrub 2 to 6m high with dark grey bark finely fissured. Its branchlets are angled at extremities and become tubular, elongated and hairy. The pale yellow flowerheads are 5 to 8mm diameter. Seed pods strongly curved, twisted or coiled.

**Distribution** West of Grenfell, Gunnedah, Warialda and Yetman. This wattle can also be found in other Australian states including Qld, Vic, WA, SA and the NT.

**Notes** Flowers October to December.



# Cooba

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Acacia salicina</i>
<b>Family name</b>	FABACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Native willow, Willow wattle, Broughton willow, Black wattle
<b>Description</b>	Erect or spreading shrub or tree 3 to 10m high, sometimes to 20m. It often suckers and the finely fissured bark is brownish. The branchlets are weeping, angled or flattened towards the tips, usually zigzagged towards the tips and hairless. The pale yellow to white flowerheads are 7 to 10mm in diameter.
<b>Distribution</b>	West from Upper Hunter Valley and Tamworth district.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during February to June. This plant had many uses for Aboriginal people, including as a fish poison, medicine, dye, food and for the construction of tools.



Photo: L. Copeland



# Spurwing Wattle

**Scientific name** *Acacia triptera*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** Spur-wing wattle

**Description** Erect or spreading shrub to 2m high, the branchlets are tubular, elongated and hairless. The phyllodes (leaf-like structures) are short (10 to 20mm) and may be pointed or end in a sharp spike. The flowerhead is between 1.5 to 3cm long, bright yellow and may be scattered along the flower stalk.

**Distribution** This wattle is spread west from the Denman, Inverell and Warialda districts. It grows in mallee, woodland and heath communities on sandhills or rocky outcrops.

**Notes** Flowers during August to November.



# Prickly Moses

**Scientific name** *Acacia ulicifolia*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** A spreading to erect shrub 0.5 to 2m high with grey smooth bark. The branchlets are tubular, elongated and hairy. The phyllodes (leaf-like structures) are small (0.8 to 1.5cm long, 1 to 2mm wide) and end in a sharp point. The flowerheads are 4 to 10mm in diameter and are pale yellow to white in appearance.

**Distribution** This plant grows in sclerophyll forest and woodland, usually in sandy soils. It is widespread on the coast and tablelands, west to the Temora area.

**Notes** Flowers May to January.



# Wild Wallflower

**Scientific name** *Aotus subglauca*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Shrub with leaves usually less than 1mm wide, narrow and linear. Flowers yellow and brown.

**Distribution** North from the Georges River. Grows in dry sclerophyll forest mainly on sandstone.

**Notes** Flowers July to August.



# Appressed Bossiaea

**Scientific name** *Bossiaea rhombifolia*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Shrub to 2m, mostly hairless. Branches may be flat, at least when young. Petals mostly orange-yellow marked with red, central petals mostly dark purplish red. Leaves are small (3 to 10mm) and diamond shaped.

**Distribution** Mainly in dry sclerophyll forest north from Wadbilliga Mountain in NSW.

**Notes** Flowers July to October.



# Needle-leaved Daviesia

**Scientific name** *Daviesia acicularis*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Small, wiry shrub, to 1m high, often bristly on vegetative parts. Leaves small (10 to 40mm), long and thin, ending in a sharp needle-like tip.

**Distribution** Grows in dry sclerophyll forest on sandy soils usually over sandstone or in hummock grassland in inland regions. Widespread east of a line from Eden to Enngonia. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers during August in the north and October in the south. There are six *Daviesia* species found in Gwydir Shire. *Daviesia* plants usually have sharp, pointed leaves.



# Australian Indigo

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Indigofera australis</i>
<b>Family name</b>	FABACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Austral indigo, Hill indigo
<b>Description</b>	Spreading shrub up to 2.5m tall. Young stems have pale hairs and feel velvety to touch. Mauve flowers.
<b>Distribution</b>	A very widespread and common species. Widespread in woodland and eucalypt forest, commonly on hills in western districts. Also found in Qld, Vic, Tas, WA and SA.
<b>Notes</b>	An excellent habitat plant for wildlife, including butterfly larvae, native bees and wasps. The purple dye indigo was once sourced from the leaves of some <i>Indigofera</i> species.



Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology



Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology



Photo: L. Copeland

# Showy Parrot-pea

**Scientific name** *Dillwynia sericea*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Erect shrub 0.5 to 1m high. Stems are densely hairy, especially on young branches. Leaves are small (5 to 20mm long), long and narrow.

**Distribution** In exposed heath, woodland and dry sclerophyll forest on a variety of substrates.

**Notes** Flowers August to September with showy display of yellow and red brown flowers. When in flower, the midstorey of the bush looks vividly yellow.



# Sieber's Parrot-pea

**Scientific name** *Dillwynia sieberi*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Erect shrub 0.5 to 2.5m high. Stems have short hairs. Leaves are rigid, linear and triangle-shaped with a point on the end.

**Distribution** Grows in dry sclerophyll forest and woodland on a variety of substrates. Widespread chiefly along ranges and slopes but also along the coast between Newcastle and Nowra. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers June to July.



# Dogwood

**Scientific name** *Jacksonia scoparia*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** Winged broom-pea

**Description** Shrub to small tree up to 12m high. Branches and branchlets erect or weeping, strongly angled or winged and may be minutely hairy. Leaves are tiny and scale-like. Flowers cream to orange-yellow.

**Distribution** Widespread on low nutrient gravelly soils associated with shales or clay, on hillsides and ridges. North from the Bega district. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers Spring to early Summer. Often found on disturbed areas (e.g. road sides).



# Small-leaf Bush-pea

**Scientific name** *Pultenaea foliolosa*

**Family name** FABACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** An erect shrub which may have stems trailing along or spreading over the ground. Stems are hairy. Leaves small (1 to 4mm long) and darker underneath. Yellow-orange flowers 7 to 10mm long.

**Distribution** Grows in dry sclerophyll forest to woodland on a variety of well drained substrates. Also found in Qld and Vic.

**Notes** Flowers during Spring. This is a good native plant for the garden as it is drought resistant and can grow on poor soil.



# Smooth Senna

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Senna barclayana</i>
<b>Family name</b>	FABACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Pepper leaf senna
<b>Description</b>	Herb or shrub to 1.5m high. Produces large numbers of seed pods. Yellow flowers.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in sclerophyll forest. Also found in Qld, WA and SA.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Summer. Preferred food for some butterfly larvae, such as the White or Common migrant butterfly ( <i>Catopsilia pyranthe crokera</i> ).



# Smooth Darling Pea

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>
<b>Family name</b>	FABACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Cranky pea, Darling pea, Indigo
<b>Description</b>	Shrubby perennial which grows to 1m high. Flowers are white, pink, purple, yellow, orange or dark red. Leaflets 8 to 15mm long. Seed pods are oval and 20 to 40mm long.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in a variety of habitats. Also found in Qld and Vic.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers Spring to Summer. A very common plant, great to grow in a native garden due to its easy cultivation and long flowering season.



Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology



Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology

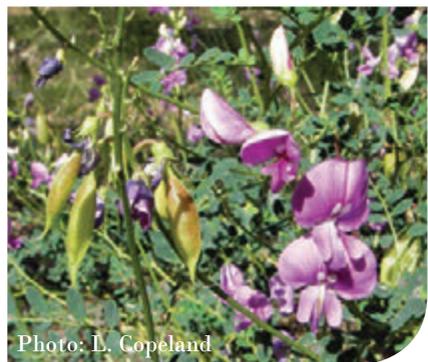


Photo: L. Copeland

# Woody Pear

**Scientific name** *Xylomelum cunninghamianum*

**Family name** PROTEACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Shrub to small tree to 20m high. New growth hairy. Leaves 8 to 12cm long, 15 to 20mm wide, tip sharp, young leaves have up to 5 large teeth along each margin.

**Distribution** Grows in dry sclerophyll forest on sandy soils at altitudes of 350 to 630m above sea level, northern parts of the slopes and near plains, north from the Warialda district. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers February to May. Characterised by pale brown fruits 50 to 70mm long and 15 to 20mm wide which give the plant its common name Woody pear.



# Seven Dwarfs Grevillea

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Grevillea floribunda</i>
<b>Family name</b>	PROTEACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Rusty spider flower
<b>Description</b>	Shrub 0.4 to 1.8m high. Flowers may be covered in long shaggy hairs, rusty brown in colour. Leaves 2 to 8cm long and velvety underneath.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in dry sclerophyll forest or woodland on sandy soils, often in rocky situations, north from Bathurst-Cobar line.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers all months but mainly Spring. Would make a good garden plant, useful as a low hedge.



# Grevillea

**Scientific name** *Grevillea triternata*

**Family name** PROTEACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Shrub 0.2 to 1m high. Flowers white, cream or pale green. Leaves 3 to 10cm long, divided, with points on the ends. Lower surface feels silky to touch.

**Distribution** Widespread but patchy, in dry sclerophyll forest, sandy soils on granite or sandstone. It is found in NSW, mostly along the tablelands and slopes of the Great Dividing Range.

**Notes** Flowers Winter to Spring.



# Granite Hakea

**Scientific name** *Hakea laevipes*

**Family name** PROTEACEAE

**Other names** Finger hakea, Broad-leaved hakea

**Description** Shrub 1 to 3m high. Young growth silky. Leaves 5 to 12cm long with a hard point on the end. Many cream coloured flowers found along the stem of the plant. Dry fruit 2 to 3cm long, warty.

**Distribution** Widespread, growing mostly on sandy soils in heath and dry sclerophyll forest and woodland. Also found in Vic.

**Notes** Flowers Spring to early Summer. Flowers are rich in nectar.



# Silky Geebung

**Scientific name** *Persoonia sericea*

**Family name** PROTEACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Erect to spreading shrub, young branchlets moderately to densely hairy. Flowers grow on into a leafy shoot. Leaves egg-shaped to oblong-shaped.

**Distribution** In woodland and dry sclerophyll forest, north from Grenfell in NSW. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers Spring and Summer. Fruit is edible when it falls to the ground and is eaten by kangaroos, emus, Australian brush-turkeys, rats and feral pigs. Also sometimes eaten by people, known as an 'all-day gobstopper'.



# Conesticks

**Scientific name** *Petrophile canescens*

**Family name** PROTEACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Shrub 0.5 to 1.2m high, young shoots hairy, leaves usually 3 to 7cm long. Flowers 10 to 14mm long, silky. Cones oblong or egg-shaped, 15 to 30mm long.

**Distribution** Grows in dry and wet heath and dry sclerophyll forest, on deep sandy soils. Found on the NSW coast and ranges north of Nerriga district and to Warialda on the slopes. Can also be found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers during Spring. The cone-shaped fruit are a distinguishing feature of this plant.



# Weeping Bottlebrush

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>
<b>Family name</b>	MYRTACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	None
<b>Description</b>	Shrub or small tree with dark furrowed bark growing to 8m high with branches generally weeping. Bright red bottlebrush flower.
<b>Distribution</b>	Mostly grows along watercourses. Chiefly in sandstone or granite areas north from the Macleay River.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers mainly during Spring to early Summer but sporadically throughout year. Commonly cultivated plant. Flowers and nectar attract many birds.



# Common Fringe-Myrtle

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>
<b>Family name</b>	MYRTACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Fringe myrtle
<b>Description</b>	Shrub to 0.5 to 2m high. Leaves linear, 1 to 12mm long. Flowers white to pink. This species is very variable and there is considerable diversity in flower, leaf and habit.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in heath, woodland and dry sclerophyll forest, widespread on skeletal and sandy soil. Found in all states except NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers all year, mainly Spring. Flowers are considered to be particularly beautiful, would be a good garden plant. Seed pods are distinctive.



# Black Tea Tree

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Melaleuca bracteata</i>
<b>Family name</b>	MYRTACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	River tea tree
<b>Description</b>	Shrub or tree to 15m high with hard fissured bark. White flowers found growing along flower spikes. Fruit almost ball shaped, 2 to 3mm in diameter.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread along watercourses or on heavier inland soils in depressions, north from the Macleay River. Found in all mainland states.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Spring. Provides important wildlife habitat.



# Rosy Paperbark

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Melaleuca erubescens</i>
<b>Family name</b>	MYRTACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Rosy honey myrtle, Pink honey myrtle
<b>Description</b>	Shrub to 2m high with hard, rough bark. Many pink flowers found along flower spikes. Leaves 5 to 12mm long. Fruit cylindrical and 4mm in diameter.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in open forest, in areas subject to flooding, on the coast in the Sydney region and in inland districts north from Griffith to Warialda. Also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Summer. Commonly cultivated plant.



# Daphne Heath

**Scientific name** *Brachyloma daphnoides*

**Family name** ERICACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** An erect shrub growing to 40 to 150cm high, branchlets bristly. Cream flowers with petals fused into a flask-shape. Leaves 4 to 15mm long, glossy above and paler underneath.

**Distribution** Grows in heath, dry sclerophyll forest and woodland sandy loams or occasionally on more clayey soils. Common in all eastern states.

**Notes** Flowers mainly August to December.



# Bearded Heath

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Leucopogon microphyllus</i>
<b>Family name</b>	ERICACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Small-leaved white beard
<b>Description</b>	Bushy or spreading shrub up to 1m high. Branchlets finely bristly. Mostly erect white flowers in compact spikes 5 to 11mm long.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in heath, scrub and dry sclerophyll forest on sandy or rocky soils. Also found in Qld and Vic.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers throughout the year, mainly August to October.



# Urn Heath

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>
<b>Family name</b>	ERICACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Honey-gland heath
<b>Description</b>	Erect, stiffly branched shrub 20 to 150cm high. Leaves 6 to 25mm long. White, cream or yellow-green flowers grow from bases of branches. Fused petals are urn-shaped.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread. Grows in dry sclerophyll forest, <i>Callitris</i> woodland and <i>Acacia</i> scrub on sandy or loamy soils. Also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers March to November.



# Five Corners

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Styphelia viridis</i>
<b>Family name</b>	ERICACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Green five corners
<b>Description</b>	Erect shrub, usually 0.30 to 1.8m high with branchlets finely hairy. Translucent green flowers. Fruit 7 to 10mm long, 5-angled, flat-topped.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in heath and dry sclerophyll forest on sandy soils, coastal districts north from Botany Bay to Warialda. Also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers April to September. Fruit is edible when it falls to the ground.



# Cough Bush

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Cassinia laevis</i>
<b>Family name</b>	ASTERACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Dead finish, Native rosemary, Curry bush, Inland cassinia
<b>Description</b>	Shrub to 3m high with rosemary-like leaves. Stems white and woolly. Leaves smell faintly like rosemary when crushed. Profuse small creamy-white flowers.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows on ridges on stony soils and in dry sclerophyll forest, also in mallee on red sands.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Summer. This species may cause hay fever - hence the name Cough bush.



# White Dogwood

**Scientific name** *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*

**Family name** ASTERACEAE

**Other names** Rice flower, Pill flower, Sago bush

**Description** Much branched, erect shrub to 5m high, but usually only 2m high. Branches with a covering of short rough hairs. Flowers white or pink. Leaves long and narrow, 10 to 15mm long, green and rough to the touch above, white and woolly below.

**Distribution** Grows on margins of rainforest and in heath in a variety of soils, often on ridges. Widespread in NSW north from Eden district. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers late Winter to Spring.



# Sticky Wallaby Bush

**Scientific name** *Beyeria viscosa*

**Family name** EUPHORBIACEAE

**Other names** Pinkweed, Turkey bush

**Description** Shrub 3 to 4m high. Leaves are 2 to 5cm long and 5 to 15mm wide, upper surface hairless and often sticky, lower surface paler or whitish. Yellow flowers.

**Distribution** Widespread in skeletal soils on ridges and hilltops or in crevices of rock slabs and on steep slopes. Also found in Qld, WA and NT.

**Notes** Flowers early Spring to early Summer. Provides low cover and good habitat for the threatened Australian brush-turkey.



Male flowers



# Western Wedding Bush

**Scientific name** *Ricinocarpos bowmanii*

**Family name** EUPHORBIACEAE

**Other names** Bowman jasmine

**Description** Shrub to 1m high. Branches woolly or hairy. Leaves linear to oblong, mostly 1 to 4cm long, 1 to 3mm wide, upper surface with sparse star shaped hairs, becoming rough to the touch with age. Flower clusters with 3 to 6 males and one female. Petals are 10mm long, pink or white. Dried fruit is 8 to 10mm long, densely hairy and rough.

**Distribution** Widespread on soils of low fertility in dry sclerophyll forest, mallee communities or on rocky ridges. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers July to September.



# Shiny-leaved Canthium

**Scientific name** *Psydrax odorata*

**Family name** RUBIACEAE

**Other names** Lamboto

**Description** Shrub or small tree to 8m high. Leaves egg shaped, 3 to 8cm long, 10 to 35mm wide, tip may be bluntly-pointed. Leaf upper surface dark green and shiny, lower surface paler. Flowers white or cream, fragrant. Fruit are black and egg-shaped, 7 to 8mm wide.

**Distribution** Grows in dry rainforest in coastal districts north from the Hunter Valley and on rocky slopes and ridges in inland districts, widespread. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers throughout the year.



Photo: M. McKemey



# Sandstone Boronia

**Scientific name** *Boronia glabra*

**Family name** RUTACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Shrub 0.4 to 1.5m high. Branchlets densely hairy. Leaves single, 5 to 30mm long. The flower is usually bright pink, sometimes purple and densely hairy.

**Distribution** Grows in open woodland and on sandy or stony soil north from the Grenfell district. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers July to October. Boronias are often a treat to be viewed on wildflower walks around Australia.



# Desert Lime

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Citrus glauca</i>
<b>Family name</b>	RUTACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Desert kumquat, Limebush
<b>Description</b>	Medium shrub or small tree 3 to 7m high. Bears thorns to 4mm long, with yellow to green marble sized fruit. Leaves greyish-green, finely hairy, with many oil glands. White flower.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in inland districts, west from Dubbo and Toorawenah district and north to Warialda District. Often suckers to form dense thickets. Also found in Qld and SA.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers Spring. Commonly used and sold as bush food, tastes like lime.



Photo: D. Carr



# Wilga

**Scientific name** *Geijera parviflora*

**Family name** RUTACEAE

**Other names** Native willow, Sheep bush, Dogwood

**Description** Shrub or tree to 10m high, leaves and branches weeping and often reaching to ground level but frequently trimmed by sheep. Long, thin leaves 3.5 to 18cm long, which release a strong smell when crushed. Fragrant, white flowers. Fruit green, 5mm long with black seed inside.

**Distribution** Grows in inland regions in mixed woodland communities. Widespread in western districts of NSW except for the far northwest, infrequent in the south. Also found in Qld, Vic and SA.

**Notes** Flowers June to March.



# Quinine Bush

**Scientific name** *Alstonia constricta*

**Family name** APOCYNACEAE

**Other names** Bitter bark, Quinine tree

**Description** Erect shrub or tree to 12m high, often suckering and forming thickets. The bark is fissured and corky. Flowers are white and fragrant.

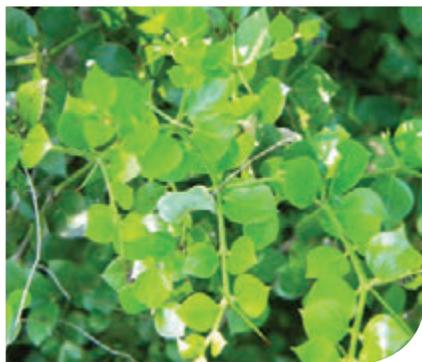
**Distribution** Widespread in northern NSW and some parts of Qld.

**Notes** Flowers in Spring. Poisonous to stock. This plant had many uses to the local Kamilaroi people, especially as a medicine and as a fish poison. When you break a stem milky sap leaks out which is a useful identification clue.



# Currant Bush

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Carissa ovata</i>
<b>Family name</b>	APOCYNACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Kunkeberry, Bush plum, Concle berry, Conkerberry, Kungsberry bush, Konkleberry
<b>Description</b>	Spreading low shrub or scrambling climber to 4m high, with simple or forked spines where the leaves arise from the stem. Leaves hard and glossy. Flowers are 8 to 10mm long, white and fragrant. Fruit egg-shaped, 12 to 18mm long, purple-black, usually carrying one seed.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in woodland and scrub in inland districts north from Narrabri and Bingara districts and in drier coastal rainforest north from Lismore. Also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Summer.



# Nepine

**Scientific name** *Capparis lasiantha*

**Family name** CAPPARACEAE

**Other names** Nipan, Bush caper, Honeysuckle and many more

**Description** Climber or scrambling shrub 1 to 3m high, covered with brown woolly hairs. Sharp spines allow the plant to climb over host plants. Large, white, perfumed flowers are followed by hard, round fruit 2 to 4cm in diameter. Upon ripening the yellow fruit becomes soft and fragrant, splitting to reveal a sweet, edible pulp surrounding the seed.

**Distribution** Usually grows in open forest in drier parts and as scattered plants in woodland, also found in vine thickets.

**Notes** Flowers during Summer. This plant has been used as a food and medicine by Aboriginal people.



# Wild Orange

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Capparis mitchellii</i>
<b>Family name</b>	CAPPARACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Native orange, Native pomegranate
<b>Description</b>	Shrub 3 to 4m high, often scrambling and spiny when young. Branches and leaves usually yellowish and densely hairy, sometimes becoming hairless. Cream to yellowish flowers last one day then the fruit forms in the middle.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows mostly as scattered individuals in northwestern NSW. Can also be found in all mainland states.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Summer. When the fruit is ripe it is filled with a yellow-orange pulp, it is very tasty and can be made into a drink. Good source of Vitamin C.



# Bitter Cryptandra

**Scientific name** *Cryptandra amara*

**Family name** RHAMNACEAE

**Other names** Pretty pearl flower

**Description** Shrub to 1m high, often intricately branched. Dull green leaves, small, narrow, 2 to 6mm long. Flowers fragrant, white, bell-shaped, crowded along upper branches.

**Distribution** Widespread throughout NSW. Also found in Qld, Vic SA and Tas.

**Notes** Flowers mainly July to September. Common around Warialda.



# Small-leaf Hopbush

**Scientific name** *Dodonaea peduncularis*

**Family name** SAPINDACEAE

**Other names** Stalked hopbush

**Description** Spreading shrub to 2m high. The dry fruit capsule has 4 wings and changes colour from green, to cream, to red. The male and female flowers are found on different plants.

**Distribution** Widespread in semi-arid areas in open woodland and hummock grassland usually in sandy soil. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers July to August. Dodonaeas are known as hop bushes as they were used to make beer by early settlers in Australia. Several species are found in the Gwydir Shire.



# Ruby Saltbush

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>
<b>Family name</b>	AMARANTHACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Barrier saltbush
<b>Description</b>	Hemispherical shrubby perennial to 1m high. Leaves succulent and up to 15mm long. Fruit green, yellow or red, drying to black, 5 to 8mm diameter, with a short beak.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in a variety of habitats. Found in all mainland states. Prefers slightly saline soils.
<b>Notes</b>	Fruit is edible when ripe, sweet to eat. Common in the bush around Warialda, especially in the Belah community.



# Fragrant Saltbush

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Rhagodia parabolica</i>
<b>Family name</b>	AMARANTHACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Mealy saltbush
<b>Description</b>	Shrub to 2m, branches striped with longitudinal ridges. Leaves 20 to 40mm long, opposite and hairy. Many fragrant, small flowers (1 to 2.5mm diameter) grow along a flower spike. Bright red fruit.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in drier areas, often in rocky areas and creek banks. Found in all mainland states other than WA. Tolerant of slight to moderately saline conditions.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers through year but more prolifically during Spring to Summer. A valuable food and habitat source for wildlife, plants may provide some forage for livestock.



# Winter Apple

**Scientific name** *Eremophila debilis*

**Family name** MYOPORACEAE

**Other names** Amulla

**Description** Shrub that creeps/spreads along the ground to 1 or rarely 2m diameter. Branches are warty. Stems are weak and fleshy. Flowers white to pale mauve without spots. Leaves 2 to 12.5cm long with obvious teeth near the base. Fleshy, white to reddish-purple fruit, 7 to 9mm diameter.

**Distribution** Grows in box and White cypress communities, on a variety of soils from the Denilliquin area, north to Qld.

**Notes** Flowers Spring to Summer. The genus name *Eremophila* is Latin for desert-loving.



Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology

# Showy Guinea Flower

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Hibbertia linearis</i>
<b>Family name</b>	DILLENIACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Guinea flower
<b>Description</b>	Shrubs 0.6 to 2m high. Leaves long and narrow or oblong-shaped. Yellow flowers with 5 petals, petals 8 to 10mm long.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in heath and dry sclerophyll forest on sands, north from the Vic border to Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers mainly Spring to Summer.



# Native Olive

- Scientific name** *Notelaea microcarpa*
- Family name** OLEACEAE
- Other names** Small-fruited mock olive, Gorge mock olive, Velvet mock olive
- Description** Crooked shrub or tree to 10m high, sometimes multi-stemmed. Branches hairy or velvety when young. Leaves are yellow-green in colour and the veins are raised on the upper surface. Fruit is about 1cm in diameter, dark blue or purple in colour and looks like a small olive.
- Distribution** Grows in dry sclerophyll woodland and smaller patches of gully rainforest north from the Hunter Valley. Also found in Qld.
- Notes** Flowers June to December. Important food source for birds.



Photo: L. Copeland



# Blackthorn

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>
<b>Family name</b>	PITTOSPORACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Boxthorn, Sweet bursaria
<b>Description</b>	Shrub or small to medium tree to 10m high with spines on branches. Fragrant, white flowers. Dried fruit 4 to 10mm long, flattened and purse-like.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread and common throughout NSW as well as Vic, Qld, SA and Tas. Grows in dry to wet sclerophyll forest, often on non-siliceous soils.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers throughout the year but chiefly in Summer. Plays an important role in the ecosystem in preventing dieback in eucalypts. Also an important wildlife plant.



# Slender Riceflower

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>
<b>Family name</b>	THYMELAEACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Queen-of-the-bush, Flax-leaved riceflower
<b>Description</b>	Variable shrub, growing close to the ground to a height of 1.5m. Stems hairless. Leaves 5 to 30mm long. Up to 60 white or occasionally pink flowers per head. Fruit green and 3 to 5mm long.
<b>Distribution</b>	Found in a variety of soils and habitats, widespread through south and east Australia.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers Spring to Summer. Toxic to stock. Several subspecies identified.



# Poison Pimelea

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Pimelea neo-anglica</i>
<b>Family name</b>	THYMELAEACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Scanty riceflower, Scrub kurrajong
<b>Description</b>	Erect dioecious (with male and female flowers on separate plants) shrub to 3m high. Stems slender, hairless leaves narrow, usually 5 to 40mm long, 1 to 3mm wide. Flowers greenish-yellow, heads holding 3 to 24 flowers.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in woodland and open forest, north from Condobolin district. Also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Toxic to stock.



# Mint Bush

**Scientific name** *Prostanthera cryptandroides*

**Family name** LAMIACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Low, broadly spreading shrub, 0.5 to 2m high. Strong mint fragrance. Leaves 6 to 9mm long, light green, sticky, covered with gland-tipped hairs. Leaves irregularly shaped with lobed margins. Lilac to mauve flowers 11 to 15mm long.

**Distribution** Grows in dry sclerophyll forest, often in rocky sites. Chiefly in the Lithgow to Sandy Hollow districts, also in the Warialda district in the north of NSW.

**Notes** Flowers September to April. Some people use the leaves to make tea.



# Bead Bush

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Spartothamnella juncea</i>
<b>Family name</b>	LAMIACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Square-stemmed broom
<b>Description</b>	Scrambling, broadly spreading shrub, mostly 1 to 2m high. Stems 4-angled, hairless and somewhat sticky. Leaves often reduced and scale-like. Petals white and 3 to 4mm long. Succulent fruit 2 to 4mm diameter, orange to red.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in sclerophyll forest and in dry rainforest and vine thickets. Not common, north from Camden in NSW. Also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers throughout year but predominantly Summer.



# Northern Sandalwood

**Scientific name** *Santalum lanceolatum*

**Family name** SANTALACEAE

**Other names** Blue bush, Desert quandong, Sandalwood, True sandalwood and many more

**Description** Erect shrub 3 to 7m high, branches spreading and weeping. Leaves elongated egg-shaped, 2 to 9cm long, 5 to 25mm wide. Leaf surface dull blue-green with a white waxy coating. Flowers green, white and cream. Succulent egg-shaped fruit is 7 to 15mm long, dark blue or purple, often galled, edible and sweet.

**Distribution** Grows in a wide range of woodland communities, from sandy sites to rocky hillsides. Widespread but scattered, found in all mainland states.

**Notes** Flowers throughout the year. Parasitic on the roots of other plants.



# Ground covers



*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

# Small St. John's Wort

**Scientific name** *Hypericum gramineum*

**Family name** CLUSIACEAE

**Other names** Native St John's wort

**Description** Erect herb 10 to 40cm high. Leaves elongated egg-shaped, 5 to 13mm long. Flowers 5 to 12mm diameter, yellow to orange. Dried fruit capsule has 3 valves and is up to 7mm long.

**Distribution** Grows in well drained soils of open forest and grassland. Also found in Qld, Vic, Tas, WA, SA and NT.

**Notes** Flowers Spring to early Summer. Not to be confused with the introduced St John's wort which is a Class 3 Noxious Weed in NSW.



# Flannel Flower

**Scientific name** *Actinotus helianthi*

**Family name** APIACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Grey green herb, 30 to 90cm high. The stem, branches and leaves of the plant are covered in downy hair (rather like flannel in texture). Lobed leaves up to 10cm long and 7cm wide. Daisy-shaped flowerheads 5 to 8cm in diameter, cream or white in colour.

**Distribution** Grows in coastal heath and scrub, open eucalypt forest on shallow sandy soils, often in exposed situations, wide spread.

**Notes** Flowers throughout the year but mainly September to November. Flowering may be particularly profuse after bushfires. Often planted in gardens.



# Austral Bugle

**Scientific name** *Ajuga australis*

**Family name** LAMIACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Leaves are velvety and toothed with the leaves diminishing as they go up the stem. The flower stem length is about 15cm long, with deep blue or purple flowers.

**Distribution** Found in rocky areas of forest and woodland and often common in waste areas. Grows in sandy to clay-rich soils. It is widespread occurring in all regions of NSW, Qld, Vic and SA.

**Notes** Flowers throughout the year but mainly Spring.



# Tarvine

**Scientific name** *Boerhavia dominii*

**Family name** NYCTAGINACEAE

**Other names** Tah-vine

**Description** A perennial herb that can be found lying flat on the ground or spreading horizontally with ends growing upwards. Stems may or may not have short hairs. Flowers pink.

**Distribution** Widespread in all mainland states.

**Notes** Flowers February to October. Tarvine has a large tap root that was used by Aboriginal people as a source of carbohydrates and water.



# Bulbine Lily

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>
<b>Family name</b>	ASPHODELACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Native leek, Golden lily, Native onion
<b>Description</b>	A perennial herb 27 to 75cm high with thick roots and often with a bulb 7 to 25mm long, 12 to 23mm diameter. Leaves channeled, 4 to 48cm long. The bright yellow flowers are often fragrant.
<b>Distribution</b>	Found in damp areas in woodland, grassland and sclerophyll forest.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers September to March. Considered the sweetest of bush food bulbs.



Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology

# Blue Caladenia

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Cyanicula caerulea</i>
<b>Family name</b>	ORCHIDACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Blue fairy, Parson-in-the-pulpit
<b>Description</b>	Leaves are linear to 7cm long, 5mm wide and sparsely hairy. Flower stalk to 15cm high, usually 1-flowered. Petals to 2cm long, the outer surfaces with scattered bluish hairs, inner surfaces blue (rarely white).
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in open woodland and shrubland, often along ridges or slopes with shallow, stony soils, south from Torrington. Also found in Qld, Vic, SA and WA.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers June to September.



# Dusky Fingers

**Scientific name** *Caladenia fuscata*

**Family name** ORCHIDACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Leaf long and narrow to 15cm long and 4mm wide and sparsely hairy. Flower stalk to 15cm high, 1-flowered. Petals to 0.7cm long, the outer surfaces with short but dense glandular hairs, reddish brown, the inner surfaces white to pink.

**Distribution** Grows in eucalypt woodland, chiefly on the western slopes of NSW, from coastal districts to Rankin Springs area.

**Notes** Flowers September to October.



# Lemon Doubletail

**Scientific name** *Diuris abbreviata*

**Family name** ORCHIDACEAE

**Other names** Nodding doubletail

**Description** Terrestrial herb with 2 or 3 leaves. Leaves are long and narrow, 12 to 25cm long, 3 to 4mm wide and folded flat together lengthwise. 3 to 9 flowers which are nodding, pale yellow to bright yellow with dark markings.

**Distribution** Grows in sclerophyll forest and grassland of ranges and tablelands, north from the Barrington Tops in NSW. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers September to November.



# Common Everlasting

**Scientific name** *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

**Family name** ASTERACEAE

**Other names** Yellow buttons

**Description** Variable, sometimes bushy perennial herb 7 to 60cm high. Its branches are usually matted with woolly hairs. Leaves 1 to 6cm long, 10 to 25mm wide. The flowers are golden-yellow balls which resemble buttons and they form in compact heads at the end of the flower stalk.

**Distribution** Widespread, growing in various communities and soil types, usually on open or disturbed sites. Found in all states in Australia.

**Notes** Flowers throughout the year but mainly Spring. Can be grown as a native garden plant.



# Bear's Ear

**Scientific name** *Cymbonotus lawsonianus*

**Family name** ASTERACEAE

**Other names** Austral bear's-ear

**Description** Annual herb to 30cm high with leaves arranged in a rosette pattern on the ground. The leaves are erect or spreading, 25cm long, 2 to 9cm wide, entire or toothed. The upper surface is dark or lime green and hairy while the lower surface is white woolly. The yellow flowers are followed by small black seeds in early Spring.

**Distribution** Grows in a range of situations such as open forest, roadside and disturbed areas. Found in south eastern Qld, throughout NSW into northern Vic, SA and Tas.

**Notes** Flowers throughout the year, probably in response to rain, but mainly Spring.



# Broom Milkwort

**Scientific name** *Comesperma sphaerocarpum*

**Family name** POLYGALACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Straggling plant to 20cm high with stems that are ridged and usually leafless and arise from the plant's woody base. The rarely seen leaves are at the base of the shoot. They are thick in texture and measure 8mm long by 2mm wide. Bright purple-blue flowers are 3 to 8mm long. Fruit grows to 4mm long.

**Distribution** Generally grows in dry sclerophyll forest or heath on sandy soil, east from Warialda and Nowra.

**Notes** Flowers October to May.



# Darling Lily

**Scientific name** *Crinum flaccidum*

**Family name** AMARYLLIDACEAE

**Other names** Macquarie lily, Murray lily, Desert lily and many more

**Description** This herb grows in clumps and reaches a height of 75cm. It has long, strap-like leaves and white, trumpet-like flowers. The flowers may have a strong fragrance.

**Distribution** Grows near inland rivers, often along sandy floodways west from Wellington and Tamworth districts also north to Warialda.

**Notes** Flowers Summer to early Autumn. The bulbs were harvested by Aboriginal women and pounded to make a paste or used as flour.



# Native Wandering Jew

**Scientific name** *Commelina cyanea*

**Family name** COMMELINACEAE

**Other names** Scurvy weed, Creeping Christian, Forget-me-not

**Description** A trailing herbaceous perennial plant, whose stems grow along the ground. It readily roots at the nodes when they come into contact with the soil. The leaves are shaped like a narrow egg and measure 2 to 7cm long by 0.5 to 1.5cm wide. Flowers deep blue. Seed capsule contains 5 small black seeds.

**Distribution** Grows in wetter shaded areas in forest habitats. The range is across eastern NSW from Narooma northwards into Qld. It also occurs on Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island.

**Notes** Flowers during Spring to Autumn.

Ground covers



# Grass Lily

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Murdannia graminea</i>
<b>Family name</b>	COMMELINACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Lawn lily, Slug herb
<b>Description</b>	Erect, slender perennial herb with thick tuberous roots, stems ascending, 10 to 60cm high. Long thin leaves arising from the base of the plant, 5 to 30cm long, 2 to 11mm wide. Flower stalk 3 to 20cm long, flowers blue or purplish (rarely white).
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in sclerophyll forest, north from the Gundagai district. Also found in Qld, WA and NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers December to April. Flowers open around 11am and close at 4pm each day during the flowering season.



# Emu Foot

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Cullen tenax</i>
<b>Family name</b>	FABACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Tough scurf-pea, Emu grass
<b>Description</b>	Perennial herb, stems to 50cm long, spreading along the ground or erect. Leaves mostly 5 to 15cm long with 3 to 7 leaflets in a palm arrangement. Flower stalks mostly 2 to 5cm long. Bluish or mauve-purple flowers are 2 to 5mm long.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread often in forest or on heavy soils in western districts. Also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers most of the year. Known as Emu foot due to the leaf's resemblance to an emu's footprint. Used as a host plant by several butterfly species.



# Zornia

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Zornia dyctiocarpa</i>
<b>Family name</b>	FABACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	None
<b>Description</b>	Upright or spreading perennial to 30cm high. Leaves have 2 opposite leaflets which are egg-shaped or long and thin. Flower stalks up to 20cm long with yellow or orange flowers with dark red blotches.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in grassland and open forest. Also found in Qld and NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Summer.



# Blue Flax Lily

**Scientific name** *Dianella revoluta*

**Family name** PHORMIACEAE

**Other names** Blueberry lily, Black-anther flax-lily and many more

**Description** Perennial herb to 1m high, tufted and solitary, or mat-forming, roots fibrous. The leaves are leathery, long and linear, varying in length from 1.5 to 8.5cm and width from 4 to 15mm. Flowers and fruit blue to purple.

**Distribution** Widespread growing in sclerophyll forest, woodland and mallee. Found in all Australian states except the NT.

**Notes** Flowers chiefly Spring to Summer. Useful plant to grow in native gardens. Fruit were used as a dye by Aboriginal people.



Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology



# Nodding Chocolate Lily

**Scientific name** *Dichopogon fimbriatus*

**Family name** ANTHERICACEAE

**Other names** Chocolate lily

**Description** Erect perennial herb up to 1m tall with tuberous roots. Leaves long and narrow and up to 35cm long and 1 to 4mm wide. Flowers are nodding and purple.

**Distribution** Widespread. Grows in sclerophyll forest, woodland and grassland, on soils ranging from clays to sands. Also found in Qld, Vic, WA and SA.

**Notes** The tubers, which are juicy and slightly bitter in taste, were eaten by Aboriginal people. The common name Nodding chocolate lily relates to the scent of the flowers which resembles chocolate.



Photo: L. Copeland

# Tropical Sundew

**Scientific name** *Drosera burmanni*

**Family name** DROSERACEAE

**Other names** Burmann's sundew

**Description** Small herb with very short stems. Spoon shaped leaves form a rosette shape. 1 to 3 flower stalks carry 3 to 10 flowers each. Flowers white or pink with petals 4mm long. Sap is sticky.

**Distribution** Widespread. Various soils and aspects, prefers wet conditions. Also found in Qld and NT.

**Notes** Flowers Winter to Spring. This carnivorous plant rapidly traps insects and uses their nutrients to grow in mineral deficient environments.



# Pale Sundew

**Scientific name** *Drosera peltata*

**Family name** DROSERACEAE

**Other names** Shield sundew, Tall sundew

**Description** Climbing or scrambling perennial tuberous species. Flowering stems to 50cm high with 5 to 10 flowers per stem, all flowers growing from one side of the flower stem. Flowers generally white or pink. Leaves spoon or shield shaped and arranged in a rosette shape near the base of the plant. Sap is sticky.

**Distribution** Widespread in moist situations. Found in all states except NT.

**Notes** Flowers Spring to Summer. This carnivorous plant traps insects and uses their nutrients to grow in mineral deficient environments.



# Native Geranium

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Geranium solanderi</i>
<b>Family name</b>	GERANIACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Austral crane's-bill, Australian cranesbill, Cut-leaf cranesbill, Hairy geranium
<b>Description</b>	Trailing or scrambling perennial herb with a rounded to turnip-shaped taproot. It has short and long, spreading and recurved (curved backwards) hairs on stems. The old leaves are orange-red. Flowers are paired or rarely solitary. The pink petals are 5 to 12mm long and often with yellowish veins and yellow anthers (pollen bearing parts).
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in woodland and grassland. Found in all states except NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Throughout the year but mainly August to December.

Ground covers



# Silky Purple Flag

**Scientific name** *Patersonia sericea*

**Family name** IRIDACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Densely tufted herb to 60cm high. Leaves long and thin (15 to 60cm long, 2 to 6mm wide), dark to greyish-green, sword shaped and silky with hairy margins (edges). Flowers blue-violet.

**Distribution** Grows in dry sclerophyll forest, woodland and heath, west to Dubbo district. Also found in Qld and Vic.

**Notes** Flowers June to November. Flowers resemble the exotic Iris flowers.



# Smooth Goodenia

**Scientific name** *Goodenia glabra*

**Family name** GOODENIACEAE

**Other names** Shiny pansy

**Description** Herb which spreads horizontally across the ground, occasionally with ends of stems growing vertically to 30cm high. Hairless or with cottony hairs. Leaves variable, some with wavy margins (edges). Flowers 10 to 18mm long, yellow and often with purplish markings.

**Distribution** Grows in a variety of dry open communities, chiefly in inland districts, north from the Leeton District. Also found in all mainland states except Vic.

**Notes** Flowers throughout the year. There are many species of *Goodenia* found in the Gwydir Shire.

Ground covers



# Forest Goodenia

**Scientific name** *Goodenia hederacea*

**Family name** GOODENIACEAE

**Other names** Ivy goodenia

**Description** Flat to ascending herb to 80cm high. Leaves hairless above and covered in cottony hair below. Yellow flowers are 8 to 15mm long and cottony outside, hairy inside.

**Distribution** Grows in forest to alpine woodland and grassland. Widespread on the coast and ranges, west to the Pilliga district. Also found in Vic and Qld.

**Notes** Flowers August to April. There are many species of *Goodenia* found in the Gwydir Shire. This is a good plant to grow in a native garden.



# Petty Spurge

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Phyllanthus virgatus</i>
<b>Family name</b>	PHYLLANTHACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Narrow piss weed
<b>Description</b>	Prostrate (lying flat) to erect herb or subshrub to 50cm high. Many stems from the base, may be smooth and hairless, or rough to the touch. Leaves 5 to 20mm long, 2 to 7mm wide, lower surface paler. Single flowers. Variable species.
<b>Distribution</b>	Found in a variety of soils and habitats. Also found in Qld.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers Spring to Summer.



# Pomax

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Pomax umbellata</i>
<b>Family name</b>	RUBIACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	None
<b>Description</b>	Erect to spreading subshrub to 40cm high. Stems, leaves and flowers may be hairy. Reddish flowers. Flower heads shaped like an inverted umbrella.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in a variety of communities, widespread in sandy or stony soils. Found in all mainland states.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers August to September. Can grow thickly in small areas.



# Lamb's Tails

**Scientific name** *Ptilotus semilanatus*

**Family name** AMARANTHACEAE

**Other names** Foxtail, Mulla-mulla

**Description** An erect herb with perennial woody rootstock, 20 to 30cm high, single stemmed or multi branched. Plant hairless, striped with parallel, longitudinal ridges. Narrow green leaves can be up to 6cm long and often have 'crinkled' margins (edges). The bright pink to purple flowers are clustered in a ball-shaped woolly head 2.5 to 3cm wide.

**Distribution** Found in wide variety of soils and habitats. Also found in Qld and Vic.

**Notes** Flowers in Spring. A perennial plant appearing in loose groups after rain in Spring and Summer.



# Common Buttercup

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Ranunculus lappaceus</i>
<b>Family name</b>	RANUNCULACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Australian buttercup, Buttercup
<b>Description</b>	Perennial herb to 50cm high. The new growth is hairy. Yellow 5-petaled flowers are up to 4cm in diameter. Leaves are egg-shaped to triangular in outline, 1.2 to 8cm long and equally wide, divided or lobed with toothed segments.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in grassland and forest to 1,500m altitude. Also found in Qld, Vic, Tas and SA.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers Spring to Summer.



# Pink Tongues

**Scientific name** *Rostellularia adscendens*

**Family name** ACANTHACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** A small herb, often multi-stemmed and rough to touch. Grows 10 to 50cm high. Highly variable leaf shape and flower colour. Lower branches often hairy with a woody base. Leaves up to 5cm long. Flowers are 2-lipped at the end of a flower spike, chiefly mauve but may vary from white to blue often with purple spots. Flower 4 to 10mm long. Fruit capsules to about 7mm long.

**Distribution** Grows chiefly in woodland, often along water courses or in rocky sites, north from Henty. Also found in Qld, NT, SA and WA.

**Notes** Flowers throughout the year.



# Hairy Sida

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Sida trichopoda</i>
<b>Family name</b>	MALVACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	High sida, Narrow-leaf sida
<b>Description</b>	Erect, sparsely hairy to smooth subshrub, often with few leaves. Leaves 1 to 3cm long, 1 to 8mm wide, occasionally a few scattered broader leaves present. Flowers yellow.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows on heavy clay soils, often on humpy uneven ground, sometimes in red loamy soils. Also found in Qld, Vic, SA and NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Spring.



# Yellow Rush Lily

**Scientific name** *Tricoryne elatior*

**Family name** ANTHERICACEAE

**Other names** Yellow Autumn-lily, Yellow grass-lily, Star lily

**Description** Wiry, relatively inconspicuous herb to 40cm high but may reach 1m. The rootstock consists of a short, erect rhizome (underground stem) and the roots are thick but not fleshy. The leaves are grass-like, crowded and tufting from the base, 5 to 10cm long, 1 to 3.5mm wide. The flower has six golden petal-like segments and tufted golden stamens (pollen-bearing stalks).

**Distribution** Grows in sclerophyll forest, heath and woodland, sometimes in swamps on sandy loam and lateritic soils. Widespread. Grows in all states except NT.

**Notes** Flowers most of the year.

Ground covers



# Many Flowered Mat-Rush

**Scientific name** *Lomandra multiflora*

**Family name** LOMANDRACEAE

**Other names** Matrush

**Description** Tufted perennial herb, slender to robust. Leaves long (25 to 90cm), flat, green and strap-like. The leaf ends are entire (not broken, like other species of mat-rush). Bears many small, cream coloured flowers.

**Distribution** Grows chiefly in woodland and forest on a variety of soils. Widespread, west to the Berrigan region. Also found in Qld, Vic, NT and possibly SA.

**Notes** Flowers June to January. Six species of *Lomandra* are found in the Gwydir Shire. The long leaves were woven by Aboriginal people to make baskets, dilly bags, nets, mats and many other things.

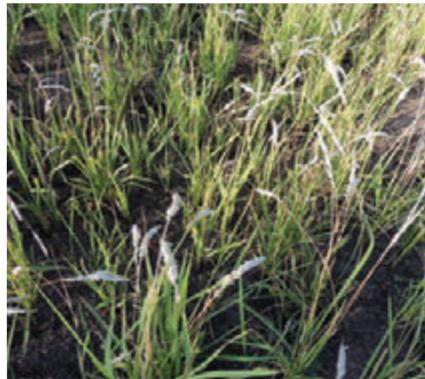


Photo: G. Steenbeeke, Orkology



# Blady Grass

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>
<b>Family name</b>	POACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Cogon grass, Satintail, Speargrass and many more
<b>Description</b>	Perennial, rhizomatous (having underground stems) grass producing tufts to 1.2m high. Leaves about 2cm wide near the base of the plant and narrow to a sharp point at the top. Leaf edges finely toothed and embedded with sharp silica crystals. Upper surface hairy near base of the plant while the underside is hairless. Roots are up to 1.2m deep, but 0.4m is typical in sandy soil. Flower head to 25cm long.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in fire-prone communities on poorer soils. Also found in Qld, Vic, Tas, WA, SA and NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers mostly during Summer. Invasive weed overseas.



# Comet Grass

**Scientific name** *Perotis rara*

**Family name** POACEAE

**Other names** Comet river grass, Pyramid grass

**Description** Slender, tufted, annual grass to 0.4m high. Flower stems bent like a knee or erect, branched at the base. Flower head is slender and feathery, 10 to 20cm long.

**Distribution** Grows chiefly on red sandy soils. Found in all mainland states except Vic.

**Notes** Flowers in response to rain. When removed from the plant, the seed looks like a comet with a trail behind it.



# Kangaroo Grass

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Themeda australis</i> (also known as <i>Themeda triandra</i> )
<b>Family name</b>	POACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	None
<b>Description</b>	Leafy, perennial, tufted grass which grows to 150cm high and 50cm wide. The branched stems are smooth and hairless, while the flowerheads are loose with large, irregularly spaced red-brown spikelets. This plant is often tinted red.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in a variety of habitats. Found in all states of Australia.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers mostly during Spring and Summer. This plant once formed native grasslands across Australia and is considered to be an indicator species for ecosystem health.



# Vines



*Clematis microphylla*

# Headache Vine

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>
<b>Family name</b>	RANUNCULACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Travellers joy, Travellers vine, Forest clematis
<b>Description</b>	A medium to large woody climber to 2.5m with white starry flowers. Leaves single or in threes. Later in the season the female plants lose their petals and develop their characteristic fluffy fruit which is commonly known as old man's beard.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in a range of habitats.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers usually during August to November. It is called the headache vine as the crushed leaves are supposed to alleviate headaches.



# Small-leaved Clematis

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>
<b>Family name</b>	RANUNCULACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Old man's beard, Small clematis
<b>Description</b>	Woody climber to 3m high. Leaves small and narrow, often in groups of three. Flowers creamy-white. Fluffy fruit also commonly known as old man's beard.
<b>Distribution</b>	In NSW this clematis is usually found west of the Great Dividing Range. It is found in all other states except NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during July to December.



# Rhyncho

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>
<b>Family name</b>	FABACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Least snout-bean, Burn-mouth-vine, Jumby bean
<b>Description</b>	Climbing or trailing herb. Stems have backwards facing hairs and some glands. Leaves grouped in threes. Flowers mostly 4 to 6mm long, yellow often streaked with purple. Seedpods to 13mm long with short, fine hairs.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in a variety of habitats mostly on heavy soils in grassland. Also found in Qld, WA, SA and NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Spring to Summer. Found on every continent.



# Glycine

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Glycine tabacina</i>
<b>Family name</b>	FABACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Variable glycine, Glycine pea, Pea glycine, Love creeper, Native soybean, Slender sweetroot
<b>Description</b>	A prostrate perennial legume with slender, elongated stems, usually creeping or trailing, occasionally twining. Stems arise from a woody, often thickened root-stock. The leaves grow up to 7cm long and are grouped in threes. Blue to purple or mauve flowers 5 to 10mm long. Seed pods up to 3cm long.
<b>Distribution</b>	Common amongst grasses in open situations, also in woodland. Also found in Qld, Vic and WA.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers mainly Spring to Autumn. At least 8 species of <i>Glycine</i> are found in Gwydir Shire.

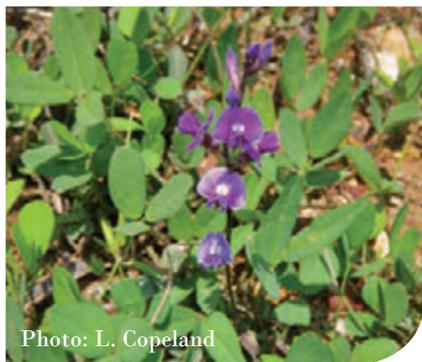


Photo: L. Copeland

# Native Sarsaparilla

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>
<b>Family name</b>	FABACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Happy wanderer, False sarsaparilla, Purple coral pea, Coral-pea, Native lilac
<b>Description</b>	Hardy, evergreen, twining, woody stemmed climber. Dark green leathery leaves are alternate (inserted singly at different levels along the branches). Produces a mass of dark purple pea flowers and green-brown seed pods which grow to 4.5cm long.
<b>Distribution</b>	Widespread in a variety of habitats. Found in all mainland Australian states except NT.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers mostly during Spring. Used by Aboriginal people as a medicine, food and as a seasonal indicator. Good butterfly habitat.



# Native Jasmine

**Scientific name** *Jasminum suavisissimum*

**Family name** OLEACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Twining scrambler or sub-shrub to 0.5m high with narrow, elliptical leaves up to 5cm. Stems may have tiny hairs when young. The perfumed, white flowers occur in loose clusters towards the ends of the branches and are around 15mm in diameter. Fruit are black, fleshy berries.

**Distribution** Widespread, grows in sclerophyll forest and woodland in inland districts. North from the Quirindi area, and in drier coastal ranges, chiefly north of the Clarence River. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers during Spring and Summer. Can be planted in the garden as a native alternative to exotic Jasmine.



# Wonga Wonga Vine

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>
<b>Family name</b>	BIGNONIACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Inland Wonga Vine, Spearwood, Western Wonga Vine
<b>Description</b>	Woody scrambler or climber with twining branches, growing on larger trees in forested habitats. Glossy green leaves arranged oppositely along the stem. Funnel-shaped flowers highly variable in colour, usually whitish with purple markings in throat. Seed pods 3 to 8cm long and 1 to 2cm wide and oblong-shaped, are initially bright green before turning brown and releasing numerous papery seeds around 1 to 1.5cm in diameter.
<b>Distribution</b>	Grows in moist gullies in sclerophyll forest and woodland. Found in all mainland states.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during June to December. A lovely native vine to grow in your garden.



# Gargaloo

**Scientific name** *Parsonia eucalyptophylla*

**Family name** APOCYNACEAE

**Other names** Monkey vine, Vinetree, Woodbine

**Description** A strong woody climber. The young plants climb by clinging roots while the older plants climb with twining stems. It has watery sap. The fruit, which grows to 6cm long, is an oval-shaped hairy pod which splits to release seeds and silky hairs. The flowers are yellow, tubular and smell sweet. The leaves can be very long and thin, growing up to 30cm long and 2cm wide.

**Distribution** Widespread in woodland and scrub in inland areas. Also found in Vic and Qld.

**Notes** Flowers during Spring to Summer. This is an important plant for wildlife, providing food and habitat.



# Native Raspberry

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>
<b>Family name</b>	ROSACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Small-leaved bramble
<b>Description</b>	Scrambling shrub with stems to 1m long, young stems hairy, becoming hairless with age. Leaflets in groups of three or five. Flowers have red or pink petals. The red fruit is 1cm wide.
<b>Distribution</b>	Found in wide variety of soils and habitats. Also found in Qld, Vic, Tas and SA.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Spring to Summer. Edible fruit. Sometimes confused with the Blackberry which is a Class 4 noxious weed.



# Other plants



*Dendrophthoe glabrescens*

# Mistletoe

**Scientific name** *Amyema* spp.

**Family name** LORANTHACEAE

**Other names** None

**Description** Mistletoe plants are parasites which grow on larger trees. They vary greatly between species but can be easily recognised growing in the branches of larger trees by their contrasting foliage. They have thick, brittle leaves, brittle stems and the fruit have a sticky pulp with one seed. The flowers are usually red and/or yellow, but may be green or red.

**Distribution** Widespread in NSW and all mainland states.

**Notes** Flowers mainly January to April. Parasitic on various hosts but commonly on species of *Eucalyptus*. Provides valuable food for wildlife but can kill the host when numbers get too high.



# Orange Mistletoe

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Dendrophthoe glabrescens</i>
<b>Family name</b>	LORANTHACEAE
<b>Other names</b>	Long flowered mistletoe
<b>Description</b>	Parasitic plant, spreading to weeping, external runners usually present. Leaves 3 to 19cm long with round tips, leathery. Flower in mature bud 2 to 5cm long, yellow to light red. 10 to 15mm long egg-shaped fruit is yellow to red.
<b>Distribution</b>	North from Tumbarumba district in NSW. Also found in Qld, NT and WA.
<b>Notes</b>	Flowers during Summer. Parasitic on various trees but common on species of <i>Eucalyptus</i> .



# Tiger Orchid

**Scientific name** *Cymbidium canaliculatum*

**Family name** ORCHIDACEAE

**Other names** Black orchid, Tree orchid and many more

**Description** This plant is an epiphyte, which means it grows in the branches and hollows of larger trees. The flowering stems grow up to 60cm long. The flowers are variable in colour but are typically brownish-green with purple or red blotches, with a white middle petal with purple marks. The leaves grow up to 50cm long, grey-green to green, succulent, leathery, V-shaped in cross section.

**Distribution** Grows in host trees in dry sclerophyll forest or woodland north from the Hunter Valley, chiefly in inland districts. Also found in Qld, WA and NT.

**Notes** Flowers during September to November.



# Cycad

**Scientific name** *Macrozamia* spp.

**Family name** ZAMIACEAE

**Other names** Several common names for various species

**Description** The Cycad has seeds covered in a thin layer of red or yellow flesh when ripe, produced in a cone which looks a little like a pineapple. A short, thick trunk can be found growing close to, or under, the ground. From this trunk sprout palm-like leaves with leathery fronds, measuring up to 1.2m long.

**Distribution** Several species of Cycad grow in woodlands and forests throughout NSW. They usually grow in colonies on infertile, sandy soils.

**Notes** New species are being discovered in regions across Australia, there is at least one species which has not yet been named or described in the Warialda area.



# Grass Tree

**Scientific name** *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*

**Family name** XANTHORRHOEACEAE

**Other names** Black boy, Johnson's grass tree

**Description** Perennial with stems arborescent (tree-like) or subterranean, woody, covered with packed leaf bases, growing to 0.1m to 5m high. Stem and crown usually one, young leaves in spreading upright tuft, old leaves often point towards the ground.

**Distribution** Usually grows in sclerophyll forest and heath in well-drained sites. Widespread north of Singleton. Also found in Qld.

**Notes** Flowers during Spring. Flowering stalks grow at a rate of 2 to 3cm per day. Plants of the *Xanthorrhoea* genus are often long-lived, some are estimated to be 350 to 450 years old.



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