Our guide to hardy plants

Coromandel Native Nursery is pleased to provide Landscape architects with a guide to help choose proven plants when landscaping in South Australia.

We have chosen plants that perform well in our dryer climate and look great in landscape situations. Saving water is becoming more important to homeowners and councils than ever before. Coming up with water efficient plants for the garden is a clever choice. There is now a much wider range of water saving natives to choose from when landscaping. There are many popular varieties of native drought tolerant plants, however certain plants are better suited to specific areas.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of what we grow at the nursery, there would be many hardy plants that we have not mentioned. Please call us if you have any questions on plant suitability for your landscape project.

We have a large range of Grafted grevilleas quality proven for South Australian conditions. Grafted Grevilleas are now being used as an attractive and hardy alternative to other standard plants such as roses.

Along with their spectacular flowers the grafted Grevillea provides year round interest in the landscape. They provide an unusual feature that can look beautiful in a formal or a natural setting.

Popular forms are Aussie Crawl, Billy Bonkers, Bipinnatifida, Bronze Rambler, Fanfare, Nudiflora, Plurijuga, and Royal Mantle.

Grafted Eucalypts are becoming a widely used tree in smaller gardens due to the much smaller size than “normal” sized Eucalyptus. Grafted Eucalyptus are available in a range of sizes ranging from 2m at maturity to 10m plus. Being grafted to Corymbia maculate rootstock, which allows the trees to be planted in a wider variety of soil types than non grafted or seed grown trees. Councils are now using some of the medium sized grafted Eucalyptus as street trees, partly because of their compactness under power lines, and because of their striking flower colours. Grafted Eucalyptus will offer an exiting addition to any garden or landscape.

Popular forms include Baby orange, Baby scarlett, Orange splender and Wildfire.

We also have Grafted standard weeping Acacias and Grafted standard Banksia, both available at certain times of the year.

To order call PH 8388 2777  FAX 8388 2711
**Acacias**— Acacias such as Acacia Limelight and Little Nugget are a hardy addition to gardens. They perform well in the garden and produce great flowers and foliage. Acacia acinacea is also a plant worth considering when planning landscapes. Acacia Cognata Limelight is a dwarf form of River wattle and grows to 1 m. Limelight has dropping fine foliage and suits most soils and conditions. Limelight is ideal for a low informal hedge and is tolerant of heavy frost and dry conditions. Little Nugget grows 1m- 48 wide can be used as low hedging. (Acacia Limelight is PBR to NPW).

**Agonis flexuosa Nana**— A weeping compact shrub with colourful foliage. Will need some water in drought conditions. Nana is a rounded shrub to about 1.5m to 1.5 wide, and is ideal plant for rockeries, but easily kept smaller by regular pruning. Dense green foliage. Can be susceptible to attack by thrips which cause the foliage to go a dry silvery brown. Used extensively by landscapers as an attractive low hedge. Masses of dainty white flowers in Summer.

**Banksias**— Banksias are easy to grow and low maintenance requiring little water once established. Little Eric grows to 2m - 1.8 wide and is an easy grow low maintenance plant that requires little water. Little Eric tolerates all conditions but does not like “wet feet”. Blechifolia is a groundcover that spreads to 2m and can cope with a wide range of soil types. Premorsa 3m-3m tolerates all conditions and soil types low water once established but does not like “wet feet”. Blechifolia is a groundcover that spreads to 2m and can cope with a wide range of soil types. Premorsa 3m-3m tolerates all conditions and soil types low water once established but does not like “wet feet”.

**Callistemons**—Callistemons come in a great range of colours and sizes, from Kings Park which can grow to 6m to Little John which grows to 1 m. All Callistemons have great bird attracting flowers at various times of the year. Salignum is a small to medium tree to 3m, Harkness is like Kings Park (to 5m), Endeavour (to 3m), Hanna Ray (to 5m) and Dawson River (4 to 6 m) and grows to 4m. Betka Beauty is a smaller tree growing only to 1.8m and like all Callistemons can cope with coastal conditions and dry periods. Once established little water is required. Harkness is also good for a wet area as it copes with water logging for extended periods.

**Correas**—We stock many different correas, all known for their hardiness and adaptability. Our range include Alba (2m), Dusky Bells (to 1m), Marions Marvel (1-2m x 2m), Pulchella (to 1m x1m), Redex, Reflexa and Schlechendallii. All correas are great for costal conditions, and need very little water once established. This woody genus of variable plants occurs in all eastern states while South Australia appears to head the list with 8 local species. Correas are tough, can accept cold and are generally frost tolerant. Many flower in the winter months. Correas don’t like to be in waterlogged soils or have wet feet.

**Dodonaeas**—Dodonaea Viscosa and Dodonaea purpurea are a popular landscape plant used in revegetation projects because of their toughness in most conditions. Purpurea (to 3m 1.5 wide) has copper-purple leather leaves and both are useful for hedging, screening for exposed sites and are used for soil erosion. Very hardy and tolerates, drought pollution and costal salty winds. Viscosa is generally found in mallee scrub to 2m), Maculata yellow and Maculata purple cloud.

**Eremophilas**—A superb range of low water, low maintenance Eremophilas are available for the Landscaper. Currently 214 species of Eremophila are recognised in Australia. Eremophila species are locally dominant in many areas, often growing in impoverished sites; in general they are tolerant of harsh conditions, including drought, fire, frost, flooding and grazing - the name Poverty Bush being aptly applied. In addition to this name, they may also be referred to as Emu Bush, Fuchsia Bush, Tar or Turpentine Bush. We recommend Eremophila glabra (50cm), which also offers a prostrate form) Kalbari carpet (30cm x 2m), Maculata red (to 2m), Maculata yellow and Maculata purple cloud.

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**Coromandel Native Nursery** — **Hardy plants for Landscape architects**
**Grevilleas**—Grevilleas are a bird attracting plant that comes in many sizes and colours. Most are suited to dry conditions and some work well in costal conditions. Bronze Rambler (.3x4m wide), is an attractive plant with bronze new growth. Our recommended Grevilleas are Red Wings, Obtusifolia (50cm x 2m), Oивacea (4m-3/6m wide), Stenomera (1m – 3m wide), Winpara Gem (to 2m), Winpara Gold (2m x2m), Scarlett Sprite (to 1m), Sea Spray (.75-1.5 wide), Red sunset (1m-2m), Lemon Supreme (to 1.5), Mt Tamboritha (prostrate), Rosmarinifolia(2m-3m), Langera (prostrate 40cm-1.5) and Superb (2m-2m).

**Melaleuca decussata**—Another plant used with great effect in hedging, screens or windbreaks. Decussata is a tall shrub and is tolerant of all soil types and conditions. Low water is required once established. Melaleuca nesophile Little Nessy is a neat compact form of Melaleuca (2m-3m). Little Nessy is adaptable and low maintenance once established. The flowers are arranged in a bottle-brush type display with many individual flowers crowded together to form the short 'bottle brush'. Extremely hardy in a wide range of conditions including frost, coastal and drought. Melaleuca Lanceolata and Hamatorum should also be considered as the are big tough forms of Melaleuca.

**Myoporum**—Known for their drought and frost tolerance, Myoporum grows fast and enjoys costal conditions. Myoporum parvifolium have three different forms, fine leaf, course purple leaf. All make great ground covers for rockeries and sunny banks. Will do better with good drainage. Myoporum is a popular plant in cultivation and is hardy in a range of soils and climates. It is an excellent, spreading groundcover for a sunny position; in shade it can become sparsely foliaged. Its hardiness has led to it being used as a root stock for grafting the related Eremophila species. Myoporum is also a useful soil stabiliser in erosion control, and is suitable for dam embankments. It's also known as a fire retardant plant.

**Rhagodia spinescens**—Rhagodia spinescens is a member of the Chenopiacaeae family. The species is known as Saltbush and is one of a group of plants that go by this common name, they have grey foliage and come from inland Australia. Rhagodia spinescens is a variable shrub that may be upright or spreading. The small leaves are silver-grey and may be oval or arrow-shaped. The flowers and fruits are insignificant. As it grows to only 30cm and makes a great ground cover in a wide variety of soils requiring very little water.

**Scaevolas**—Another handy low water requirement plant, that performs well in most soil conditions. Scaevola Purple Fanfare is a fast growing hardy Scaevola spreading up to 1.5 metres. Flowers for an extended period. Scaevola Mauve Clusters is a reliable cultivar and flowers profusely and frequently throughout the year. Spreading to around 1.5 metres, it is adaptable to most soil types. Scaevola Misty Blue Spreading up to 1 metre, this hardy groundcover is adaptable to most soil types in full sun to partial shade. Scaevola albida is a white flowering form (small fruited fan flower) with lime green coloured foliage. Semi-upright habit to 30cm, spreading to 1 metre.

**Syzygiums**—We have two well proven Syzygiums, Bush Christmas and Australe. Bush Christmas is a compact form growing 2-3m—1.5 wide, but can be kept as low as 1m with pruning. Ideal for hedges, container planting, topiary or general garden planting. Ideal for shaping into a dense hedge. A great container plant with a flush of orange new growth in winter. Australe grows to 3m – 1.5 wide, both plants make ideal hedges with pruning. Suits most soil types. Prefers moist, well drained soil in full sun to partial shade. May need additional water during long dry spells particularly when young.

**Thryptomene**—An easy growing plant for most soil conditions, but preferring well drained. Thryptomene can tolerate periods of dryness once established. Thryptomene Saxicola (to 1m) has dark pink flowers and tolerates dry periods once established. Probably it is the best known of the Australian Thryptomene species, as it was sold for many years in nurseries as Payne's Thryptomene or Thryptomene 'Paynel'. It is a hardy plant in well drained soils in a sunny or lightly shaded location and it is tolerant of moderate frosts. The plant responds well to pruning and this helps to develop a well-shaped and attractive bush. There is also a white form of Thryptomene available.

**Westringias**—Westringias now come in many reliable varieties, all being excellent in coastal conditions. Westringia fruticosa is the most well known Westringia and grows to 1.5m. Westringia Lilac and Lace (1.3x1.5) has late summer flowers, and is ideal for hedging as are most Westringias. Jeffri Gem (1.2m) has silver foliage and star like flowers. All Westringias are tolerant to frost and drought once established. Zena is low lying, to 90cm x 90cm wide, and great for low hedging. Milkey Way is another hardy Westringia great for planting with Correas as a background plant. Wynyabbie gem grows to 1.5 and has contrasting foliage of grey green above and white beneath. Smokie to 1m, variegated, and is also a proven recommended Westringia.

**Xanthorrea Preissii**—Commonly known as the Black boy or Grass tree, our Xanthorreas come from Western Australia so are better suited to South Australian conditions. Xanthorreas can grow as high as 20ft at maturity, but are very slow growing. They are a great feature to a well landscaped garden often used as a show piece. Grass trees are a group of very distinctive and highly valued Australian native plants. Over the years, many people have desired to have advanced specimens in their gardens. They do like water but not wet feet.
**Dianellas**—We have a great range of dianellas ready for landscape situations. Popular plants include: Dianella caerulea Breeze (60cm), Dianella caerulea Little Jess (40cm), Dianella caerulea Cassa Blue (40cm), Dianella longifolia (to 80cm), Dianella revoluta Little Rev, Dianella Tasmanica, Tas Red (30cm), King Alfred (70cm), Dianella tasmanica Emerald Arch (45cm), Dianella Tasmanica Destiny (35cm) and Dianella Silver Streak (40cm). Dianella caerulea is known to be one of the most drought tolerant plants available and they all work well in landscape situations. Tas Red is a Dianella with foliage that turns red in autumn and winter, making it a great contrast plant. Dianella Tasmanica Destiny and Silver Streak are similar plants with white contrasting on broad leaves.

**Lomandra**—Popular Lomandras for landscaping include: Lomandra, Lomandra longifolia Katri-nus (1m), Lomandra longifolia Tanika (60cm), Lomandra conferifolia Wingara (30cm), Lomandra hystrica Tropic Belle (90cm), Lomandra Savanna Blue (30cm), Lomandra longifolia Nyalla (70cm) and Lomandra longifolia Cassica (1.2m). Katrinus also comes in a deluxe form and when planting both, landscapers need to be wary of planting too low. Ensure Tanika is planted no deeper than existing soil level to prevent covering the crown. Tanika has proven to be one of the toughest, most reliable landscape plants over the last couple of years. It has filled an ongo-ing need that previously went unfulfilled. All Lomandras have native plant toughness and dura-bility.

**Pennisetums**—Pennisetums are popular grasses because they are taller grasses they provide background to other plants. Versatile Pennisetums are: Pennisetum alopecuroides "Naffray" (70cm) and Pennisetum "Purple Lea" (1.2m). Pennisetum alopecuroides is a tufted or clump forming grass, that means, it does not spread by underground shoots. It has gra-ciously arching leaves that grow to 80 cm long and bears feathery mostly purplish flower heads on 60-100 cm long erect stems. The inflorescence can be up to 14 cm in length and resembles a foxtail, hence its common name Swamp foxtail. The new forms of Pennisetums have low seed viability making them non-invasive to native bushland.

**Poas**—Poa poiformis Kingsdale (45cm), Poa labillardieri, Poa lab Eskdale (60cm), Poa poiformis Courtney (70cm) and Poa sieberiana. Once established Poas need very little water but can be cut back once a year. Poa Eskdale is popular amongst commercial landscapers for its durability and drought tolerance. Eskdale grows fast getting to full growth in only one year. Kingsdale has stunning blue ornamental foliage which makes a great contrast with fine arching leaves it adds softness to any garden design.

We are proud to grow grasses and strappy leaf plants under license from Ozbreed and Foliage first known for their drought tolerance.

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**Other recommended choices**

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