

TAMAR REGION BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

Australia is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world, with a large portion of its species found nowhere else in the world.

It includes:

All species of plants and animals, large and small from giant trees to microbes

The places that they live in a constantly regenerating cycle of life

And the many variations within each species, which create the genetic diversity, which enables us to change and adapt to new circumstances

The Tamar Natural Resource Management Strategy has identified biodiversity as the second most important natural resource issue for the Tamar Region. Action Plans developed to implement the Strategy include improving our knowledge of the local biodiversity and providing information for the people of the region on biodiversity.

The Tamar Region consists of a wide variety of landforms and plant and animal communities, all of which go to make up a very diverse biological environment. For the people of the Tamar these environments are part of our backyard and we need to look after it.

Our backyard consists of:

- The urban and rural residential zones of the Launceston,
- West Tamar and Georgetown Council areas;
- The lower reaches of the north and south Esk Rivers,
- Their tributaries and the other rivers, which feed into

The Estuary;

The Tamar Estuary with its abundance of marine life;

A plethora of wetlands, forests, native grasslands and Woodlands outside the residential zone; and

The coastal areas to the east and west of Low Head and Greens Beach.

Some easy ways to enhance biodiversity in your own backyard:

- Remove weeds and invasive exotics, such as Cotoneaster.
- Create a frog pond, with local native plants, natural mulch, logs and rocks.
- Keep birds safe by keeping your cat indoors between dusk and dawn.
- Replace open lawns with a vegetable patch or natural mulch.
- Compost green waste and return it to the soil. This will keep the nutrient cycle going, and improve your soil.
- Start a worm farm, they are an easy way to turn kitchen scraps into wonderful garden food.
- Switch to a more environmentally friendly heating system. Collecting firewood from the bush can destroy the homes of many native mammals, birds and reptiles.
- Control what goes down your drain.
- Plant local native plants.

LOCAL PLANT SPECIES THAT WILL ASSIST IN INCREASING LOCAL BIODIVERSITY WITHIN THE TAMAR REGION

Botanical Name	Common Name	(Code)
Acacia myrtifolia	Myrtle Wattle	(ss-ms)
Acacia verticillata	Prickle Moses	(ls-st)
Bauera ruboides	Dog Rose	(ss)
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	(ls-st)
Banksia serrata	Leaf Banksia	(ls-st)
Bulbine bulbosa	Bulbine Lily	(h)
Bursaria spinosa	Prickly Box	(ls-st)
Callistemon pallidus	Yellow Bottlebrush	(ls-st)
Callistemon viridiflorus	Green Bottlebrush	(ss-ms)
Cassinia aculeata	Dolly Bush	(ms-ls)
Clematis aristata	Old Man's Beard	(c)
Coprosma quadrifa	Native Currant	(ss-ms)
Correa alba	White Correa	(ss)
Correa reflexa	Common Correa	(ss)
Dichopogon strictus	Chocolate Lily	(h)
Diplarrena moraea	White Flag Lily	(m)
Dodonaea viscosa	Hop Bush	(ms-ls)
Goodenia ovata	Bush Goodenia	(ms)
Hakea nodosa	Yellow Hakea	(ms)
Kunzea ambigua	Sweet Scented Kunzea	(ms)
Leptospermum lanigerum	Woolly Tea-Tree	(ls-st)
Lomandra longifolia	Sagg	(m)
Lomatia tinctoria	Guitar Plant	(ss)
Melaleuca gibosa	Small Leaved Melaleuca	(ss-ms)
Micrantheum hexandrum	Box Micrantheum	(ms)
Pelargonium australe	Native Pelargonium	(h)
Poa labillardierei	Tussock Grass	(m)
Poa rodwayi	Rodway's Poa	(m)
Pomaderris apetala	Dogwood	(ls-st)
Prostanthera rotundifolia	Round Leaved Mint Bush	(ms)
Scleranthus biflorus	Cushion Plant	(gc)
Stylidium graminifolium	Trigger Plant	(h)
Tasmannia lanceolata	Native Pepper	(ms-ls)
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass	(m)
Viola hederacea	Native Violet	(gc)
Westringia fruticosa	Coastal Rosemary	(ss)



WETLANDS SPECIES

Botanical Name	Common Name	(Code)
Carex appressa	Tall sedge	(m)
Carex fascicularis	Tassel Sedge	(m)
Carex tasmanica	Curly Top Sedge	(m)
Gahnia grandis	Cutting Grass	(m)
Isolepis nodosa	Knobby Club Rush	(m)
Juncus gregiflorus	Manifold Rush	(m)
Juncus pauciflorus	Loose Flower Rush	(m)
Juncus planifolius	Broad Leaf Rush	(m)
Restio tetraphyllus	Tassel Cord-Rush	(m)

CODE

ss - small shrub	<1.5m
ms - medium shrub	<3m
ls - large shrub	>3m
st - small tree	<10m
mt - medium tree	<20m
lt - large tree	>20m
gc - ground cover	
h - herbaceous plant	

ALL SPECIES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING NURSERIES:

Treeline Nursery Gravely Beach
 Habitat Horticultural Services Liffey
 Allan's and BBC statewide

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on how to increase biodiversity in your own backyard and further information on Tasmanian native plants please contact us at the following address:

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