

# COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION



## Suggested plants for your verge in Cottesloe

### We recommend using 'Local' Plants

There are about 1800 local plant species around Perth which have adapted to the many different soil types and local environments. Our local plants are those which have adapted to local conditions, so they cope best with our local setting. Residents in the Town of Cottesloe are now encouraged to consider a 'local plants verge garden' in place of water and fertilizer hungry lawn.

### Why Grow Local Plants?

Local plants provide food and shelter for our local birds, insects and lizards. They require much less water than most exotic species and they do not need any fertiliser. (If you must use fertilise, only use a minimal amount of a slow release type and apply only in the spring!). Overuse of fertilisers is the cause of many problems in our wetlands, rivers, lakes and oceans because of the run-off from our gardens into the stormwater drains flowing into our waterways. High nutrient levels lead to algal blooms which can be extremely harmful to fish and even humans.

### What species could you plant on a verge in Cottesloe?

Some commercially available plants are listed below (common name in brackets)

- Acacia lasiocarpa* (dune Moses) 1m
- Conostylis candicans* (grey cottonheads) .4m
- Dianella revoluta* (flax lily) .5m
- Eremophila glabra* (tar bush).5m
- Frankenia paucifolia* (seaheath) .5m
- Grevillea crithmifolia* – prostrate form, 1 m spreading shrub
- Grevillea preissii* (spider-net grevillia) 1m
- Hemiandra pungens* (snakebush) spreading low shrub
- Isolepis nodosa* (knotted club-rush) 1 m
- Lepidosperma gladiatum* (coast sword sedge) 1m
- Leucophyta brownii* (cushion bush).5m
- Olearia axillaris* (coastal daisybush) 1 m
- Pimelea ferruginea* (coast banjne) .5m
- Rhagodia baccata* (berry saltbush) 1m
- Trachymene coerulea* (Rottnest Island daisy) – annual herb
- Westringia dampieri* – 1m

### CREEPERS

- Carpobrotus virescens* (pigface)
- Hardenbergia comptoniana* (native wisteria)
- Kennedia prostrata* (running postman)

**The plants listed below are too tall for your verge but you might like to consider them for your bird-attracting and water-wise garden.**

*Allocasuarina fraseriana* (common sheoak) 10m  
*Alyxia buxifolia* (sea box) 2m  
*Calothamnus quadrifidus* (one-sided bottlebrush) – 3 m tall  
*Callitris preissii* (Rottneest cypress) – 5-10 m tall  
*Diplolaena dampieri* (Dampier's rose) 2m  
*Lepidosperma gladiatum* (coast sword sedge) 1m  
*Macrozamia riedlei* (zamia) 2m  
*Melaleuca systema* 1.5 m  
*Melaleuca huegelii* (chenille honeymyrtle) 3m  
*Myoporum insulare* (boobiala) 2.5m  
*Pittosporum phylliraeoides* (cheesewood)- coastal form, 4 – 5m  
*Spyridium globulosum* (basket bush) 3 m  
*Templetonia retusa* (cockies' tongues) 3 m  
*Zanthorrhoea preissii* (grass tree) 3m

**To find out more:**

- *Cottesloe Coastcare Association's* website [www.cottesloe.wa.gov.au/?p=300](http://www.cottesloe.wa.gov.au/?p=300)
- *For home gardening advice using local plants phone the Kings Park volunteer* Master Gardeners helpline on 9480 3672
- *Waterwise Gardening advice is available from the Water Corporation on* 9420 2420 *or* [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au)
- *Greening Australia* 9335 8933
- *Wildflower Society of WA* 9383 7979

**These Books Provide Useful Information about Growing Local Plants:**

- *Growing Locals: Gardening with Local Plants in Perth*  
R. Powell and J. Emberson, WA Naturalists Club (Inc.), 1996
- *Leaf and Branch – Trees and tall shrubs of Perth*  
R. Powell, Department of Conservation and Land Management, 1990
- *Bushland Plants of Kings Park.*  
E. Bennett, Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, 1988
- *Perth Plants for your Garden*  
Greening WA; telephone to order: 9 335 8933
- *Coastal Plants, Perth & South West Region*  
Elizabeth Rippey & Barbara Rowland, UWA Press, 2004

**Local Plants are Available for Sale at:**

- APACE Nursery, Fremantle 9336 1262
- Dawsons Garden Centre, Swanbourne 9384 9652
- Zanthorrea Nursery, Maida Vale 9454 6260
- Lullfitz Nursery, Wanneroo 9405 1607
- Carramar Nursery, Baldivis 9524 1227

**It is best to plant seedlings in autumn and winter.**

**Robyn Benken**