

Flora for a Fauna Friendly Sydney Garden

Compiled by Lyn Hulme, member of *Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc.* and ABBR

To attract the greatest variety of wildlife to your garden you need to provide a **habitat** with *structural diversity* as well as *plant diversity*. What does this mean? This means that a garden with only trees, shrubs and mown lawns is not very inviting for most small creatures. What you must provide is a *well developed shrub* and herb layer.

You need to provide an area into which small birds can escape from aggressive bigger birds - this means an impenetrable thicket which offers both refuge and nesting sites. Also you need tufting and clumping plants, climbers, groundcovers and grasses. Finally you need a mulch of twigs and leaves for insects and lizards. The presence of permanent water will increase the number of visiting birds. Get the picture! Lots of layers!

Listed below is just a *small selection* of native plants to help you get started with turning your garden into a haven for native wildlife. For ecological integrity remember to plant only native species which occur in your area of Sydney.

Grasses

<i>Themeda australis</i>	Kangaroo grasses	a tussock grass with beautiful bronze highlights, provides seed for birds and butterflies
<i>Danthonia</i> spp	Wallaby Grasses	provide seeds for birds, attract butterflies.
<i>Dichelachne</i> sp	Plume Grasses	butterfly attracting
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass	an excellent habitat plant

Tufting and clumping plants

<i>Dianella</i> spp	Flax Lilies	their beautiful blue berries provide fruit for birds, attract butterflies and insects
<i>Lomandra</i> spp	Mat Rushes	offer refuge, nesting sites. Attract butterflies, insects, seed & fruit-eating birds
<i>Crinum pedunculatum</i>	Swamp Lily, River Lily	the bases of the thick fleshy leaves provide frog habitat
<i>Juncus</i> spp	Rushes	offer great habitat attract seed and fruit eating birds and butterflies
<i>Gahnia</i> spp	Sword Grass, Saw Sedge	all gahnias are excellent habitat plants

Climbers

<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	Apple Berry, Dumplings	bird and butterfly attracting. The fruits are edible when purple!
<i>Clematis aristata</i>	Old Man's Beard, Traveller's Joy	very good nesting site for birds and the masses of white flowers attract butterflies and insects
<i>Cissus antarctica</i>	Watervine	offers shelter & nesting sites; birds like its berries; attracts moths and ringtails
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	False Sarsaparilla	attracts seed & fruit eating birds, offers refuge and nesting sites, attracts butterflies, moths, bees and small insects.
<i>Smilax glycyphylla</i>	Native Sarsaparilla	provides nest-making material; birds and possums like its bunches of black berries
<i>Kennedia</i> .spp	Coral Peas	attract nectar, seed & fruit eating birds, butterflies, moths, small insects, bees

References

Elliot, Rodger (1994) *Attracting wildlife to your garden* Thomas C Lothian Pty Ltd., Melbourne
 Robinson, Les (1991) *Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney* Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst
 Information provided by ABBR's Newsletter Fauna Corner editor, Danie Ondinea. Many thanks!

Groundcovers

<i>Commelina cyanea</i>	Scurvy Weed	shelter for ground dwelling small lizards and frogs
<i>Centella asiatica</i>		shelter for small lizards
<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>	Pig Face	the purple fruits provide bird food
<i>Scaevola</i> spp	Fan Flowers	butterflies and insects love their nectar over many months of the year
<i>Hibbertia</i> spp	Guinea Flowers	offer food for insects, moths, butterflies and birds. Native bees collect the pollen to feed baby bees
<i>Correa</i> spp		their tubular flowers are rich in nectar for both birds & butterflies
<i>Dampiera</i> spp		the insect attracting flowers provide food for small birds
<i>Goodenia</i> spp		the bright yellow flowers attract insects and butterflies which provide food for small birds

Ferns

<i>Blechnum</i> spp	Water Ferns	shelter for many small birds
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Bracken	nesting and shelter for Fairy Wrens, Silvereyes and other small birds
<i>Gleichenia</i> spp	Coral Ferns	form thickets providing bird refuge
<i>Cyathea</i> spp	Treeferns	native bees nest in the broken trunks
<i>Doodia aspera</i>	Rasp Fern	will mass to form a low thicket offering shelter

Shrubs

<i>Acacia</i> spp	Wattles	any of the small local wattles provide seed for birds, and nectar for butterflies. The ones with dense foliage give shelter and nesting sites for small birds.
<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>		the fruits resembling tiny apples provide food for birds and butterflies
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	great wildlife habitat. Its prickly foliage gives safe refuge. The sweetly-scented flowers attract butterflies. Double-barred finches feel safe nesting here
<i>Pultenaea</i> spp	Bush-peas	attract native bees, butterflies moth and seed eating birds
<i>Zieria</i> spp		a wide range of butterflies and many small insects visit these plants

Trees

<i>Angophora hispida</i>		one of the best plants for attracting a wide range of insects
<i>Allocasuarina</i> spp	She-oaks	attract seed and fruit eating birds
<i>Banksia</i> spp		very important as a food source for birds, animals and insects as well as providing nesting sites
<i>Callistemon</i> spp	Bottlebrushes	attract nectar feeding, seed, insect and fluit eating birds plus butterflies and they are pollinated by native bees
<i>Callitris</i> spp	Cypress Pines	attract insects, birds and butterflies
<i>Hakea</i> spp		the prickly ones of this genus are great for nesting and refuge
<i>Grevillea</i> spp		attract nectar and insect-eating birds and butterflies
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp		all species attract a wide range of wildlife