

Coastal Gardens

A planting guide for Broome
on the Dampier Peninsula

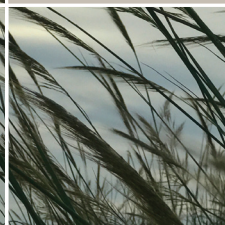
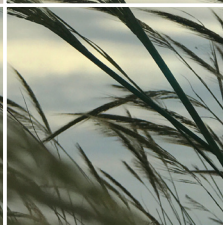
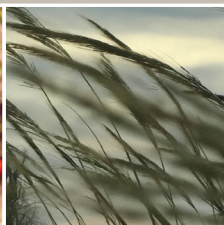


Roebuck Bay Working Group Inc

Healthy & attractive Broome gardens

This guide provides practical and inspiring garden advice for people living in the coastal town of Broome on the Dampier Peninsula. Water-wise local native plants are attractive replacements for 'introduced plants' that can be harmful to our coastal landscape that interconnects with Roebuck Bay and Cable Beach.

- 1 Using this planting guide
- 2 Discovering local coastal plants
- 3 How to use local coastal plants
- 4 Garden escapees
- 5 Gardening to keep Broome's coastal waters clean
- 6 Tall trees
- 10 Medium trees
- 14 Small trees
- 18 Tall shrubs
- 22 Medium shrubs
- 26 Small shrubs & ferns
- 30 Grasses, herbs, ground covers & vines
- 34 Broome garden design
- 36 Arid garden design
- 38 Rainforest garden design
- 40 Growing local coastal plants
- 41 Sourcing local coastal plants
- 42 Useful resources



Using this planting guide

Getting started

Using local coastal plants will give your garden a Broome flavour, benefit your wallet and help protect and reduce your impact on the productive coastal waters of Roebuck Bay and Cable Beach.

The plants in this book thrive in Broome's soils and climate. Many are cyclone tolerant and require less water than exotic plants. Local plants have defence mechanisms to cope with pests, requiring fewer pesticides than exotics. Less pesticides means less chemicals running off your garden during heavy rain and entering Roebuck Bay via stormwater drains. Other benefits are healthy soil and plenty of birdsong, butterflies, frogs and small lizards in your garden.

This guide shows you how to create a thriving coastal garden. Step by step, learn what plant works best for specific areas and different landscaping styles, how to maintain your garden, and where to buy local coastal plants.

You will also learn about the exotic plants to avoid in your garden and how to identify environmental weeds.

Broome's climate can be broadly characterised by two seasons: hot wet summers and mild dry winters. Yawuru people, the Traditional Owners of Broome, recognise six seasons. Learning about Yawuru seasons builds understanding of how to look after the plants, animals and coastal waters - including Roebuck Bay and Cable Beach.



Discovering local coastal plants

What is a local plant?

Local coastal plants are species that naturally occur in Broome on the Dampier Peninsula, and have evolved to suit local conditions. They are also called 'endemic plants'.

Why use local plants?

Local coastal plants have a huge range of benefits:

- They require minimal watering – conserving the water supply.
- They are low maintenance.
- Most are drought and cyclone tolerant.
- They save you money and time.
- They do not need fertiliser or pesticides, reducing polluted garden run-off entering Roebuck Bay.
- They adapt to landscaping styles and are visually pleasing.
- They provide habitat, food and shelter for wildlife.
- They provide a flowering garden year-round.

Local plants are a great option for coastal areas. They have adapted to survive the harsh coastal conditions of Broome on the Dampier Peninsula, including prolonged sun exposure, nutrient deprived soils, limited water availability and cyclonic weather.

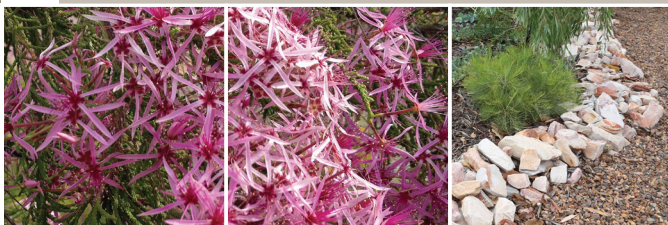
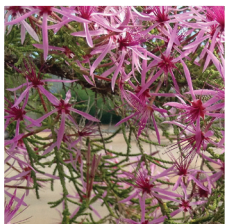


How to use local coastal plants

Local plants can be incorporated into your garden the same way as exotic plants. As you will discover in this guide, there is a local plant for most garden situations e.g. bush tucker, screening, wet areas and bird attracting. This guide shows you which local plants to use for a particular effect and which weeds to beware of e.g. Neem Tree.

Tips on designing and maintaining your garden.

- Identify areas in full sun, full shade or semi shade, then the local plants that will thrive in these conditions.
- Think about what the plants will look like when mature.
- Identify areas where you wish to screen e.g. along a fence.
- Avoid plants that will block line of sight along the driveway.
- Prune to shape trees and shrubs in the first two years.
- Landscape run-off areas e.g. paperbarks do well in wet areas.
- Dig garden swales to capture rainwater and reduce run-off into stormwater drains that discharge into Roebuck Bay.
- Mulch plants, but not close to road as may run-off in heavy rain.
- Grow annual herbs and ground covers on verge without mulch so they propagate themselves.



Garden escapees

Are you
harbouring
known villains?

How do
garden plants
become coastal
invaders?



Weeds are plants growing where they are not wanted, and they aren't just prickles and thistles! Some weeds, even those deemed 'beautiful', escape from gardens and become serious environmental weeds, posing a major threat to natural environments.

Weeds are problematic because they:

- Smother and outcompete local endemic plants.
- Reduce habitat, shelter and food for native wildlife.
- Alter soil conditions.
- Clog stormwater drains and impact Roebuck Bay water quality.
- Are costly to control and eradicate.

Yes, you can help

Have a look at the pages titled 'DON'T PLANT a garden escapee' to check which common garden plants are weeds. Remove weeds in your garden to prevent these exotics being a source of further infestation through seeding, and replace with the local coastal plants suggested. Take this guide when making new plant purchases and avoid exotics that are known weeds.

Here are some other easy things you can do. Use local coastal plants in your garden. Dispose of weeds at the tip (free for green waste) or compost. Contact Environs Kimberley in Broome to purchase a copy of 'Kimberley Weeds' and learn how to eradicate weeds. Join the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals to learn about plants and lend a hand: www.environskimberley.org.au/skipa



Gardening to keep Broome's coastal waters clean

Yes you can help

Simple steps to reduce polluted run-off entering Roebuck Bay

There are few places on earth with such productive coastal waters surrounding a large population centre. On the eastern side, Broome has the rich marine ecosystem of Roebuck Bay (a Marine Park and Ramsar site), and on the western side, famous Cable Beach.

With housing blocks in Broome contoured toward our roads and most of the stormwater drains discharging into Roebuck Bay, we need to minimise polluted run-off from our gardens.

- **Trap rainwater:** Dig large depressions around plants - with the downhill side built up to capture sheet rain. Fill depressions under the roof's flow path to capture rainwater. For pathways, use gravel instead of cement to allow rain to sink into the soil.
- **Mulching:** Apply mulch regularly, it captures and soaks up water, reduces evaporation and improves soil structure - making plants stronger and more pest resistant.
- **Watering:** Establish a drip irrigation system to water seedlings. Watering can be cut back once plants are established. Remember to turn-off reticulation during wet weather.
- **Fertilising:** A thick layer of mulch will help meet the nutritional needs of local plants. Organic fertilisers like blood and bone and native plant slow release can be used under mulch if needed.
- **Lawn:** Try growing more local plants and less lawn, as lawn requires fertiliser that can run into stormwater drains during heavy rain and become food for toxic blooms of *Lyngbya majuscula* (Maiden's Hair) in Roebuck Bay.



Tall trees

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



African Mahogany *Khaya senegalensis*
(Sub Saharan Africa)

The tree can grow to 20 m tall. In Broome it is shallow rooted and blows over easily in a cyclone. Has attractive durable wood that has been used for furniture. It seeds profusely and prefers monsoon vine thicket habitat.



Date Palm *Phoenix dactylifera*

Single trunked tree with large offensive spines at the base of each frond. Fruit are attractive to birds and animals and spread by all. A weed of areas with a high watertable.



Tamarind *Tamarindus indica*

Tree growing to 20 m tall with large pods that contain sweet pulp around the seeds. These pods are eaten and spread by birds and mammals. Has good hard timber.



Tall trees

GROW ME instead!



Boab *Adansonia gregorii*

No other tree is more symbolic of the Kimberley, with its immense trunk and striking silhouette. Leafless for most of the dry, boab trees produce fragrant white flowers Nov-Feb and large woody pendulous fruits.

To 12 m, deciduous, drought tolerant, grow from seed.



Cable Beach Ghost Gum *Corymbia paractia*

Stately tree with grey knobbly bark on lower trunk and white smooth bark on upper trunk and branches. Produces white scented flowers Oct-Dec, attracting nectar feeding wildlife.

To 12 m, slow growing, drought tolerant, grow from seed.



Ironbark *Eucalyptus jensenii*

Hard timbered tree with black deeply furrowed bark. Small cream flowers Jun-Sep. Attracts nectar feeding wildlife. Slow growing.

To 12 m, drought tolerant, grow from seed.



Long-fruited Bloodwood *Corymbia polycarpa*

A handsome stately tree. Produces clusters of cream flowers Mar-Jul and fruits in woody capsules. Attracts nectar feeding wildlife.

To 15 m, evergreen with ample water, grow from seed.



Tall trees

GROW ME **instead!**



Coolamon Tree *Gyrocarpus americanus*

A distinctive Kimberley tree with a thick golden trunk, crooked spreading branches and bright green, heart-shaped leaves. Tiny clusters of cream flowers Nov-May and winged seed capsules, which spin as they fall.

To 12 m, deciduous, slow growing, drought tolerant, grow from seed.

Paperbark *Melaleuca dealbata*

Shady tree with a short trunk, papery bark and broad weeping crown. Flowers with a sweet honey scent in Sep. Attracts nectar feeding wildlife.

To 15 m, fast growing, grow from seed.



Leichhardt Pine *Nauclea orientalis*

A spreading shade tree with horizontal branching and heart-shaped, glossy, deep green leaves. The hardy tree produces strongly perfumed, pink pincushion flowers and woody fruits May-Nov.

To 10-20 m, semi deciduous, fast growing, grow from seed.

Mamajen *Mimusops elengi*

Erect ornamental with a dense crown and shiny dark green foliage. Cream scented flowers Feb-May and ripe edible fruit when bright red-orange.

To 12 m, evergreen, slow growing, grow from seed.



Tall trees

GROW ME **instead!**



Woollybutt *Eucalyptus miniata*

Attractive straight tree with dark woolly fibrous bark on lower trunk and white smooth bark above. Pretty orange flowers in clusters May-Aug, followed by large ribbed woody fruit. Attracts nectar feeding wildlife. To 20 m, drought tolerant, grow from seed.

Silver Cadjeput *Melaleuca argentea*

Handsome tree with papery bark and a weeping crown of soft silvery leaves. Produces honey scented cream flowers Apr-Jul, which attract nectar feeding wildlife. To 12 m, wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Styptic Tree *Canarium australianum*

Excellent specimen tree ideal for large gardens and street verges. Its spreading canopy casts thick shade. The edible fruit can be cooked and kernel eaten raw. Slow growing. To 12 m, deciduous, drought-wind tolerant, grow from treated seed.



Medium trees

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Chinese Apple *Ziziphus mauritiana*
(Tropical Africa)

A thorny spreading tree to 6 m tall with hooked spines. Edible ripe fruit brown with white flesh. Spread by birds, animals and people who eat the fruit and spread the seeds. A pan tropical and serious weed in Australia.



Leucaena, Coffee Bush *Leucaena leucocephala*
(Central America)

Rotund shrub to 6 m tall. Planted as cattle fodder under irrigation in the north. A weed of roadsides and creeks from the Pilbara to the Kimberley. Highly invasive.



Poinciana *Delonix regia*
(Madagascar)

Spreading tree to 8 m tall with brilliant red flowers in November. Has long-lived seeds and prefers monsoon vine thicket habitat. The tree has been planted throughout the tropics and can blow over in cyclones.



Yellow Flametree *Peltophorum pterocarpum*
(NE Australia and SE Asia)

Tree to 10 m tall with bright yellow flowers and bronze pods. Commonly planted in Kimberley towns. Develops a large crown and can blow over in cyclones.



Medium trees

GROW ME **instead!**



Bat's Wing Coral Tree *Erythrina vespertilio*

Decorative tree with corky bark and thorns on trunk and branches. Leaves shaped like open bat wings. Produces masses of orange-red, pea shaped flowers, usually deciduous Aug-Nov. Extra water can prevent leaf fall.

To 10 m, deciduous, drought tolerant, grow from seed (poisonous).

Broad Leaf Paperbark *Melaleuca viridiflora*

The tree has thick papery bark and broad dark green leaves. Produces a showy display of white, green or dull red flowers Jan-Jul. Attracts nectar feeding wildlife.

To 10 m, wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Broome Bloodwood *Corymbia zygophylla*

The smallest local bloodwood, produces masses of white creamy flowers in short clusters at the ends of branchlets Dec-Feb. Common in pindan woodland around Broome, it is known for attracting native bees.

To 9 m, wind-drought tolerant, grow from seed.

Cocky Apple *Planchonia careya*

The pretty tree produces large white flowers at night, which drop before sunrise Oct-Apr. Bark fissured, leaves glossy and fruit green and shaped like a lemon.

To 8 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Medium trees

GROW ME instead!



Freshwater Mangrove *Barringtonia acutangula*

Spreading multi stemmed tree with glossy leaves and striking red pendulous flowers produced periodically, followed by long green fruit. Common on West Kimberley riverbanks.

To 8 m, deciduous, drought-wind tolerant, grow from fresh seed.

Gubinge *Terminalia ferdinandiana*

Spreading crown, pale green leaves and creamy nectar rich flowers Oct-Mar. Produces edible fruit Jan-Feb with the richest known source of vitamin C in the world!

To 10 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from fresh seed.



Marool *Terminalia petiolaris*

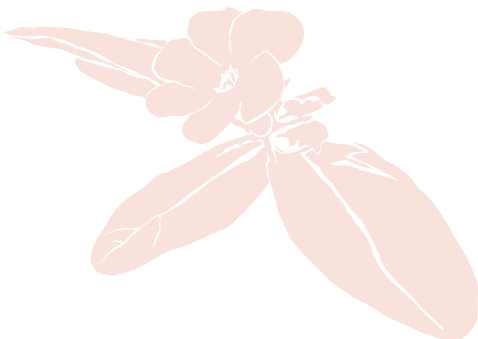
A shady tree that retains its foliage even after violent winds. Cream nectar rich flowers Oct-Apr, edible fruit that turns maroon when ripe Apr- Dec. Common in the monsoon vine thicket.

To 10 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from fresh seed.

Northern Kurrajong *Brachychiton diversifolius*

Conical well-formed crown and glossy light green foliage. Greenish yellow flowers Jun-Oct and dark grey boat shaped pods with yellow seeds.

To 8 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Medium trees

GROW ME **instead!**



Jigal Bauhinia *cunninghamii*

Deeply fissured grey-black bark, butterfly shaped leaves crimson when new, blue-green when mature. Broad flat pods are bright red when young, brown when mature. Red flowers are full of sweet nectar to drink.

To 8 m, long-lived, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.

Northern Swamp Box *Lophostemon grandiflorus*

Stable tree with a broad well-formed crown. Large white-scented flowers Mar-Jul. Does not fruit unless conditions suit. Slow growing.

To 7 m, wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Saltwater Paperbark *Melaleuca alsophila*

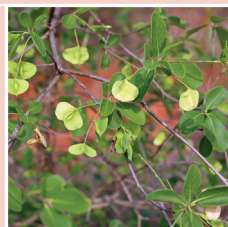
Attractive dense crown, white papery bark, fragrant leaves and cream flowers Mar-Aug. Group plantings excellent for screening and nesting birds. Does well in damp areas. Responds well to extra water in summer.

To 7 m, long-lived, salt tolerant, grow from seed.

Rosewood *Terminalia volucris*

Attractive shade tree with dark green glossy leaves, profuse scented yellow-cream flowers and fruit in a two winged nut Oct-Jan. Drought tolerant.

To 8 m, long-lived, grow from fresh seed.



Small trees

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Neem *Azadirachta indica*

Shady tree growing to 8 m tall with yellow succulent fruit. Birds eat the fruit and young Neems establish under the bird's roost trees. Once a Neem seedling is 1 m tall it's hard to pull out as it has a long taproot. Highly invasive.

Small trees

GROW ME **instead!**



Boomerang Tree *Hakea macrocarpa*

The tree has an interesting architectural shape, corky grey bark, cream bottlebrush flowers May-Sep and large woody fruits which split when ripe to expel seed. Attractive to birds, mammals and insects when flowering. To 4 m, slow growing, wind-fire tolerant, long-lived, grow from seed.

Ebonywood *Diospyros humilis*

An ornamental tree with dark green glossy leaves, small yellowish flowers and tangerine coloured fruits when ripe Oct-Dec. Excellent screening shrub. Slow growing. To 6 m, wind-drought tolerant, grow from seed.

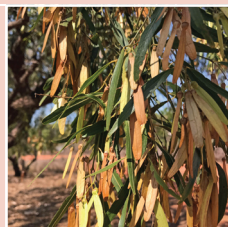


Celtis strychnoides

Attractive bushy fruiting tree with unusual three veined leaves. Produces small white fragrant flowers Oct-Dec, edible fleshy fruits May-Jul scarlet when ripe. Prefers sandy soils and occasional prune to keep tree bushy. To 5 m, semi deciduous, fruit edible, grow from fresh seed.

Medicine Bark *Ventilago viminalis*

Pretty tree with weeping habit, fibrous bark and small cream flowers followed by clusters of one winged seed pods. Inner bark used to make antibacterial wash. To 5 m, wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Small trees

GROW ME **instead!**



Mangarr *Sersalisia sericea*

Sturdy spreading tree, dark green foliage and small dark purple fruit taste similar to a date. Beehives containing 'sugarbag' often in trunk and flowers popular with Red-winged Parrots. Extra water in first two years advisable. To 6 m, evergreen, slow growing, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.

Sandpaper Fig *Ficus scobina* Benth.

The tree's name refers to the roughly textured leaves. Bears small green edible fruit, purplish black when ripe with a sweet floral flavour. Semi deciduous. To 3 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.

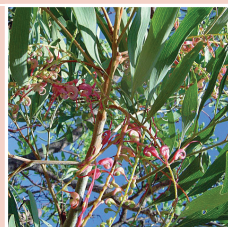


Pindan Walnut *Terminalia kumpaja*

Prized nut tree with corky fissured bark. Flowers and fruits Oct-Jan. The outer 'nut' looks like a walnut after it has dried. Inside, corky wood protects a kernel that is eaten raw and tastes better than an almond. To 6 m, semi deciduous, drought-wind tolerant, grow from fresh seed.

Rock Grevillea *Grevillea heliosperma*

Attractive tree, red flowers attract wildlife (Apr-Jun), large woody pods. Prefers well-drained sandy soils. Lightly prune after flowering to keep compact habit. To 4 m, evergreen, fast growing, grow from seed.



Small trees

GROW ME instead!

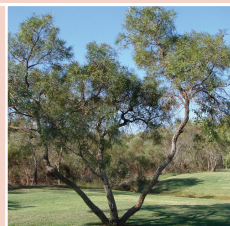


Prices Point Orange *Pittosporum moluccanum*

Decorative ornamental, glossy dark green leaves, white perfumed flowers Feb-Aug, clusters of round fleshy orange fruits with sticky black seeds. Gazetted as Declared Rare Flora so good to grow to ensure survival. To 6 m, evergreen, fast growing, grow from fresh seed.

Yellow Hakea *Hakea arborescens*

A specimen tree, with long leaves, corky bark, small pale-yellow flowers Dec-Mar. Thick woody fruits release winged seeds. Slow growing but long life span. To 4 m, drought-wind-fire tolerant, grow from seed.



Wild Apple *Syzygium eucalyptoides*

Pretty spreading tree with large, oval, light green leaves. Showy white flowers Oct-Dec in dense clusters. Fleshy, white, edible, apple sized fruit with a dry sharp taste. Flowers and fruit attract wildlife. To 5 m, semi deciduous, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.

Silky Grevillea *Grevillea pteridifolia*

Slender tree, silvery foliage, nectar rich orange flowers May-Oct attract wildlife. Prefers well-drained sandy soils. Light pruning after flowering keeps compact. To 5 m, fast growing, grow from seed.



Tall shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Century Plant *Agave americana*

(Mexico and southern USA)

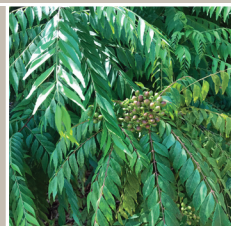
Has 1 m plus long leaves at base that have a very sharp point and barbed edges. The flower heads are to 4 m tall. The plant forms formidable clumps. A close relative is used to produce tequila.



Curry Tree *Murraya koenigii*

(Indian subcontinent)

Shrub to 4 m tall with aromatic leaves smelling of curry and used to make curry powder, hence the common name. Succulent fruit eaten and dispersed by birds.



Prickly Pear *Opuntia sp.*

(Americas)

Grows to 4 m tall, has flattened pad-like stems. This group of cacti contain the famous invasive prickly pear, laid low by the cochineal mealy bug. Frequently planted by early settlers due to their low water requirements.



Rubber Tree *Calotropis procera*

(Tropical Africa and Asia)

Shrub to 4 m tall, grey foliage and copious milky sap. Flowers robust, waxy and pinkish. Large pods produce copious volumes of silky windblown seed.



Yellow Bells *Tecoma stans*

(Central and South America)

Spreading tall shrub with yellow bell-like flowers that grows 4 m tall and can spread from gardens into disturbed areas. After Koolan Island townsite was bulldozed this species spread rapidly.



Yellow Oleander *Cascabela thevetia*

(Central America)

Shrub to 4 m tall, with yellow to pink tubular flowers and large 2.5 cm diameter fruit. All parts of the plant are toxic. Likes to establish in drains and creeks.



Tall shrubs

GROW ME **instead!**



Curly Wattle *Acacia wickhamii*

Beautiful compact spreading wattle that tolerates hard pruning, making it ideal for screening and hedging. Its bright yellow cylindrical flowers are followed by long fruit pods Mar-Jun.

To 3 m, fast growing, drought-wind tolerant, grow from treated seed.

Hopbush *Dodonaea platyptera*

Decorative shrub, dark green leaves, small greenish flowers Feb-May, clusters of brown, winged, papery seed pods. Evergreen shrub good for screening.

To 5 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Lollybush *Clerodendrum floribundum*

Hardy shrub with masses of white perfumed flowers and dark red, star-shaped fruit bases. Light pruning keeps compact and promotes flowering.

Can form suckers from roots, remove to prevent plant becoming untidy.

To 4 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Tall shrubs

GROW ME **instead!**



Native Gardenia *Gardenia pyriformis*

A spreading dense shrub with mottled orange-yellow bark and spectacular displays of large perfumed white flowers Feb-Sep, followed by small pomegranate-like fruits.

To 4 m, semi deciduous, wind tolerant, grow from seed.

Melaleuca lasiandra

Attractive shrub, silvery silky leaves and scented cream flowers in short spikes Apr-Dec. Ideal for tall borders and screening. Responds to extra summer watering.

To 2-4 m, grow from seed.



Myoporum montanum

Erect bushy shrub with glossy deep green leaves. Profuse small white flowers Jun-Aug, and attractive multicoloured berries. Suitable for hedges and screening. Prune to shape and create new vigour.

To 3 m, salt tolerant, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed or cuttings.



Tall shrubs

GROW ME **instead!**



Silver-leaf Grevillea *Grevillea refracta*

Graceful open shrub, foliage deep green above and silvery below. Clusters of yellow-orange or pink flowers Apr-Nov attract birds. Prefers well-drained sandy soils. Lightly prune after flowering to keep compact.

To 4 m, grow from treated seed.

Pindan Wattle *Acacia platycarpa*

Slender shrub with prominent, dense cream flower-balls Apr-May and large woody pods in spring. Prefers sandy soils. Tolerates occasional hard prune.

To 4 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from treated seed.



Wickham's Grevillea *Grevillea wickhamii*

Slender ornamental, holly-like leaves and spectacular yellow or red flowers on spikes attract birds Jul-Oct. Ideal for rockeries or as a filler between trees and shrubs. Lightly prune to keep compact.

To 4 m, grow from treated seed.



Medium shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Bellyache Bush *Jatropha gossypifolia*

(Mexico and Central America)

Rotund shrub to 1.5 m tall, with dark green, brownish, glossy foliage. Planted in the early gardens as it can survive without water. Poisonous and the seed gives humans a bellyache if eaten. Highly invasive.



Cotton *Gossypium hirsutum*

(Americas)

Rotund mid shrub to 1.5 m tall with white and pink flowers that produce white cotton balls. Shrubs long-lived and persist for many years.



Candle Bush *Senna alata*

(Tropical America)

Upright shrub 1 to 4 m tall, with large spikes of yellow flowers and 4 winged pods. Favours protected areas with a high watertable such as drains and lake fringes. It is a declared species in WA and the NT.



Tall Indigo *Indigofera oblongifolia*

(East Africa and India)

Bushy grey shrub to 1.7 m tall, with small light red flowers. Sold as a garden plant in northern Australia in 1970's. Has established on the De Grey flood plain.



Teddy Bear Cactus, Hudson Pear *Cylindropuntia species*

(Americas)

Cacti to 1 m tall, characterised by round stems and spines with barbs on tips, which are hard to extract from flesh! Covered in shimmering spines. Native animals have been found dead after entanglement in spines.

Medium shrubs

GROW ME **instead!**



Cable Beach Wattle *Acacia bivenosa*

Attractive bushy rounded or spreading shrub with blue-green leaves. Produces brilliant golden-yellow, globular flowers in a dense display Apr-Nov. Prefers open sunny position and prune unwanted branches at base. To 3 m, fast growing, drought-wind tolerant, grow from treated seed.

Cajanus pubescens

A pretty spreading silvery-grey shrub with yellow pea like flowers and grey hairy fruit pods. To 2 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from treated seed.



Green Birdflower *Crotalaria cunninghamii*

A self propagating erect shrub, corky trunk, velvety grey green leaves, and masses of green bird-like pea flowers year-round. Seeds in rattlepods Feb-Nov. The poisonous plant can cause skin irritation. To 3 m, perennial, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.

Conkerberry *Carissa lanceolata*

Prickly shrub with small white fragrant flowers and fruit that is sweet and edible when black and ripe. One of the most common plants in the Kimberley. To 3 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Medium shrubs

GROW ME instead!



Moon Flower *Capparis spinosa*

Attractive low spreading shrub with leathery, rounded, dark green leaves and large white-cream flowers, which open at night and close midmorning.

Attracts butterflies. Lightly prune to maintain shape.

To 3 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from fresh seed.

Net-veined Wattle *Acacia retivenea*

Attractive erect shrub with large veined grey foliage and eye-catching bright yellow flowers. Fast growing and ideal for a low water garden.

To 3 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from treated seed.



Kimberley Heather *Calytrix exstipulata*

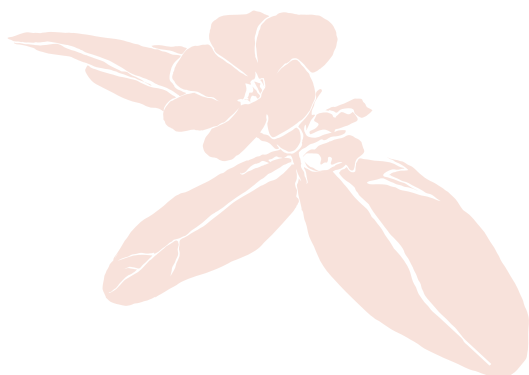
Stunning ornamental with numerous branchlets and a spectacular display of cream or pink-purple starlike flowers. Shrub is a favoured shade plant of wallabies. Regular light pruning will maintain a compact shape.

To 3 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed or tip cuttings.

Silver Cassia *Senna artemisioides*

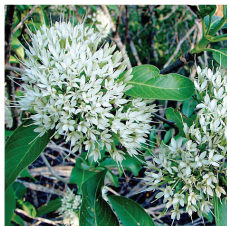
A pretty shrub with hairy grey leaves giving a silvery appearance. Profuse, scented, bright yellow flowers and papery wavy seed pods. Grows on well-drained soils.

To 3 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Medium shrubs

GROW ME **instead!**



Pavetta kimberleyana

Shiny green leaves and profuse, strongly scented, white flowers in showy clusters. Green berries edible when ripe and black. Prefers well-drained soils. Tip prune young plants and hard prune at maturity to keep shape.

To 3 m, grow from seed.

Yellow Hibiscus *Hibiscus panduriformis*

Attractive spreading ornamental with blue-green velvety leaves and lots of showy bright yellow flowers Jan-Aug. Benefits from extra summer watering.

To 2 m, grow from fresh seed.



Snowball Bush *Flueggea virosa*

Spreading multi stemmed shrub, dense clusters of small yellow-cream, scented flowers Dec-Apr. Profuse small fleshy fruits, edible when white and ripe. Tip prune early for a compact shape. Common in vine thicket.

To 2.5 m, deciduous, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Small shrubs & ferns

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Chinese Gooseberry *Physalis minima*

Rotund spreading annual to 0.5 m tall with dark green foliage and yellow, marble shape fruit surrounded by a loose papery sheath. Fruit are edible and seed dispersed by birds, mammals and wind. Pan tropical species of uncertain origin.



Dwarf Poinsettia *Euphorbia cyathophora*

(Americas)

Originating in the Americas. Upright semi perennial herb with white sap and growing to about 1 m tall. A pan tropical weed.



Snakeweed *Stachytarpheta cayennensis*

(Central and South America)

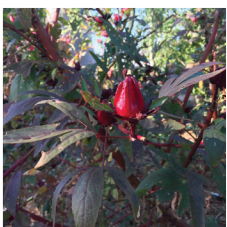
Upright short-lived perennial to 1 m tall, with blue flowers on long sinuous flower heads. Herbivores don't eat foliage and a serious weed of pastures. Spread easily by water and a noxious weed in some Australian states.



Thorn Apple, Devils Trumpet *Datura metel*

Possibly originating in the Americas.

Rotund shrubby annual to semi perennial, with large white flowers growing to 0.8 m tall and poisonous.



Rosella *Hibiscus sabdarifa*

(West Africa)

Upright annual herb with reddish-green foliage, pink flowers and inflated red succulent fruit that is used for jam making. Grows to 1 m tall. Stock don't eat it and a weed of pastures.



Wild Basil *Ocimum basilicum*

(Tropical Asia)

Semi perennial herb growing to 0.5 m tall in disturbed pindan soil that receives extra water, such as roadsides.



Small shrubs & ferns

GROW ME instead!



Acacia hippuroides

Pretty low spreading shrub 1.3 m across and small yellow flower balls Mar-Sep. Prefers sandy soils. Ideal for rockeries, long strips or mass plantings. Lightly tip prune from an early age and after flowering to maintain shape. To 1 m, grow from treated seed.

Beach Cabbage *Scaevola taccada*

An attractive, verdant green, compact shrub. Produces white flowers and fruits Mar-Jul. To 2 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from cuttings.



Blueflower Rattlepod *Crotalaria verrucosa*

Attractive annual for gardens and rockeries, dark green leaves and purple pea flowers Apr-Oct. Good as green mulch because it is a legume providing nitrogen for the soil. Suitable for borders and mass plantings. To 1 m, drought-wind tolerant, poisonous to stock, grow from seed.

Flinders River Poison *Tephrosia rosea* Benth. var. *rosea*

Erect shrub with silvery foliage, brilliant mauve to pink flowers Jun-Sep. Suitable for most well-drained soils. Ideal for rockeries and borders. Poisonous to stock. To 2 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Small shrubs & ferns

GROW ME **instead!**



Grey Whorled Wattle *Acacia adoxa*

Low spreading shrub with pretty smoky grey-blue leaves. Abundant yellow fluffy flower balls Apr-Sep and fruits in flat sticky pods. Prefers well-drained sandy soils. Ideal for rockeries, long strips and mass plantings.

To 1 m, fast growing, drought-wind tolerant, grow from treated seed.

Mangrove Fern *Acrostichum speciosum*

The clumping fern has large dark green leathery fronds, which go reddish-brown when they have spores on their backs in June. Likes ponds and shady boggy soil.

To 1.5 m, salt tolerant.



Native Cotton *Gossypium australe*

Attractive shrub has soft, hairy, grey to blue-green leaves, and large pink to mauve hibiscus like flowers with deep mauve centres Apr-Nov. Prefers sandy soils and regular tip pruning for a compact shape.

To 2 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from fresh seed.



New Holland Rattlepod *Crotalaria novae-hollandiae*

Has soft hairy leaves, bright yellow pea flowers and dark brown pods, which rattle when mature. Ideal for borders and a blaze of colour for a mass planting.

To 1 m, plant poisonous, grow from seed.



Small shrubs & ferns

GROW ME **instead!**



Northern Star Wattle *Acacia stellaticeps*

Attractive low spreading shrub with small dark green leaves. Masses of yellow flowers as dense balls Feb-Nov and bright green pods erect above crown. Prefers well-drained soil and light prune to maintain shape.

To 2 m, grow from treated seed.



Sandhill Wattle *Acacia hilliana*

Attractive low spreading shrub with yellow cylindrical flowers Apr-Jun and sticky seed pods Sep-Nov. Good ground cover for rockeries. Prefers well-drained soil.

To 1 m, grow from treated seed.



Ram's Horns *Senna costata*

Attractive shrub with bright yellow flowers during dry season. Green, turning dark brown seed pods. Prefers well-drained soils. Tip prune young plants and hard prune when mature to maintain compact shape.

To 2 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.

Templetonia hookeri

Elegant slender wispy ornamental, fine foliage and pale lemon flowers. Will tolerate dry conditions making it an excellent specimen for rockeries and dry gardens.

To 2 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Grasses, herbs, ground covers & vines

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Caltrop *Tribulus terrestris*

A low lying, matt forming, annual herb with large buttercup-like flowers and spiny fruit. Their common name originates from anti cavalry devices used by the Romans that always have a spike pointing upwards. A pan tropical and Mediterranean weed.



Darwin Pea, Butterfly Pea *Clitoria ternatea*

Weakly perennial leguminous vine with large blue to white pea flowers. Now pan tropical.



Dissected Morning Glory *Merremia dissecta*

The Caribbean perennial vine has white flowers with a red centre and distinctive divided leaflets. Now pan tropical.



Hairy Morning Glory *Merremia aegyptia*

Perennial hairy vine with white flowers that can grow over low trees. The vine is a pan tropical weed and very invasive.



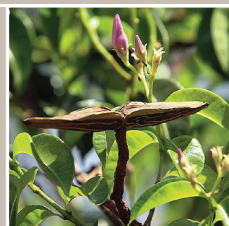
Ivy Gourd *Coccinia grandis*

Strong perennial vine with red fruit that can grow into the tops of trees. It has been grown in the Broome area for its young shoots that can be eaten in Thai stir fries.



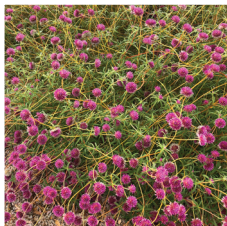
Rubbervine *Cryptostegia madagascariensis*

Perennial vine with milky sap when damaged, showy pink flowers and pear-like seed pods that produce volumes of windblown seeds.



Grasses, herbs, ground covers & vines

GROW ME instead!



Batchelors Buttons *Gomphrena canescens*

Fast growing herb, reddish stems and pretty, pink-purple flower heads in spiky balls May-Jul. Makes a stunning mass display and likes warm, dry, free draining conditions. Widely distributed across northern Australia.

To 40 cm, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Beach Bean *Canavalia rosea*

Trailing, beachside, attractive pink to purple pea shaped flowers held above foliage on erect stalks. Thick woody pods that explode when ripe Jan-Nov. Likes sandy soils. Ground cover, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Beach Morning Glory *Ipomoea pes-caprae*

Fast growing decorative ground creeper. Trailing stems several metres long with green leathery leaves and pink to mauve, trumpet-shaped flowers year-round. Regular pruning prevents runners spreading too far.

Ground cover, annual, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Distimake davenportii

A ground cover that has soft crinkly hairy leaves and attractive white flowers. Grows well in cultivation and whilst it can climb, it is not aggressive.

Ground cover, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Bush Potato *Ipomoea costata*

Scrambling vine that will grow as a shrub and climb if given the opportunity. Abundant, large, purple-pink, trumpet shaped flowers. Edible tubers sought after by bilbies.

Vine, ground cover, fast growing, long-lived, grow from seed or cuttings.

Grasses, herbs, ground covers & vines

GROW ME instead!



Gomphrena flaccida

A decorative herb with masses of long-lasting, globe shaped, bright pink flowers Mar-Aug. Mound shaped with light green foliage and splendid as a mass planting. Best in full sun in well-drained soil. Good for cut flowers.

To 1 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.

Indigofera monophylla

A ground cover with silvery green leaves and a profusion of mauve to pink pea flowers Jun-Aug. Occurs near Eco Beach and east into the Great Sandy Desert.

Ground cover, drought tolerant, grow from seed.



Jacquemontia paniculata

A small twining vine with small pink flowers Mar-Jun, common behind the coastal dunes in Broome. The vine is pretty and can be used to soften a fence, or grown in hanging baskets, spilling over with delicate flowers.

Herb, vine, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.

Lemon Grass *Cymbopogon procerus*

The grass has aromatic, fluffy seed heads Apr-Jun.

Benefits from extra water over summer and removal of old spent seed heads. Drought-wind tolerant.

To 2 m, grow from seed or divide from existing tufts.



Grasses, herbs, ground covers & vines

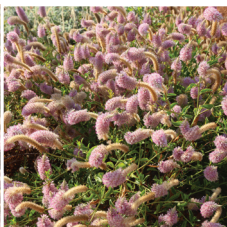
GROW ME instead!



Poison Morning Glory *Ipomoea muelleri*

Attractive prostrate, trailing or climbing, short-lived perennial vine, pink to purple, funnel shaped flowers Mar-Dec, heart-shaped leaves. Individual flowers last one day. Fast growing.

Vine, perennial, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed or cuttings.



Tall Mulla Mulla *Ptilotus exaltatus* Nees

Spectacular herb, dark green foliage and masses of showy, large, mauve, feathery flower spikes year-round. Needs well-drained soil. Good for mass plantings, borders and cut flowers. Lightly tip prune to keep compact. Annual herb to 0.5 m, drought-wind tolerant, grow from seed.



Sea Purslane *Sesuvium portulacastrum*

Prostrate fleshy herb, pink flowers and easy to grow. Sprawls to 1-2 m in diameter. Ideal for rockeries and to cover bare ground between larger plants. Ground cover to 30cm tall, grows easily from cuttings.



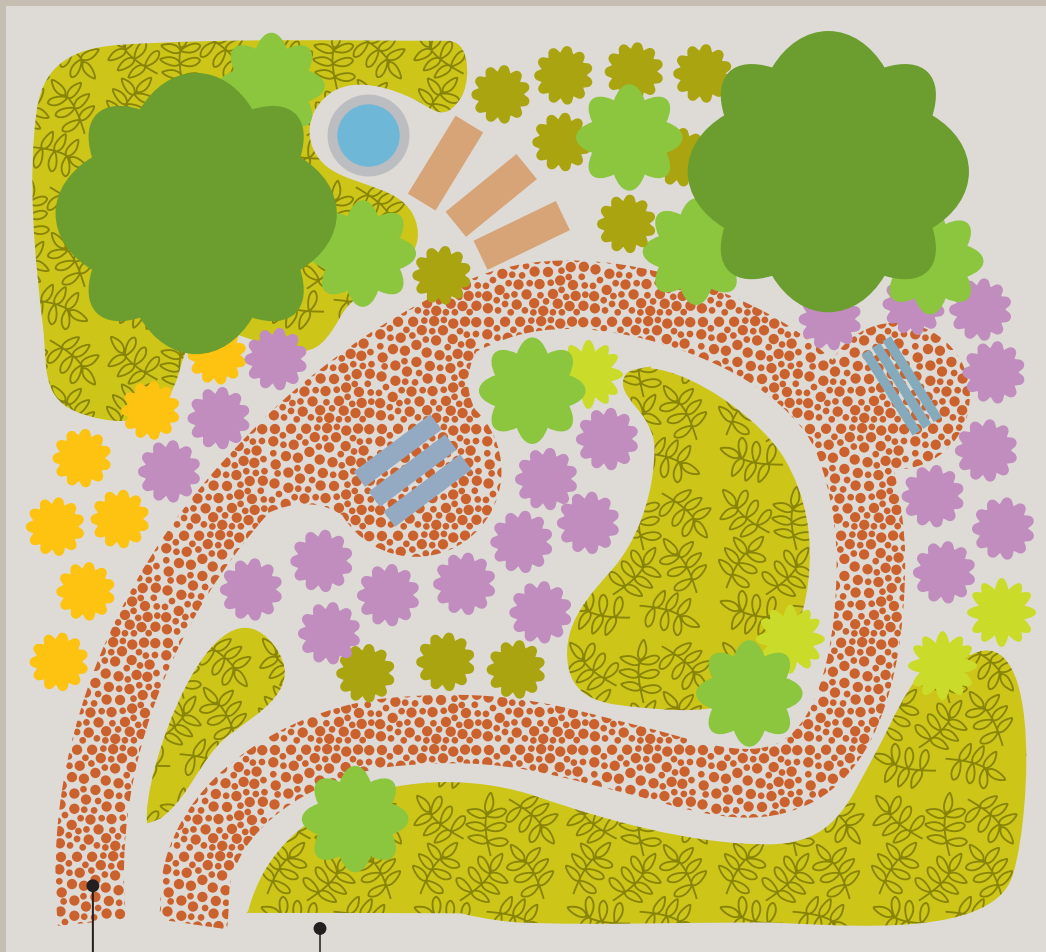
Weeping Mulla Mulla *Ptilotus calostachyus*

Delicate spreading herb with attractive, pink-white, lamb tail like flowers on long thin weeping stems in April. Remove old flower heads to prolong flowering. To 1 m, grow from seed.



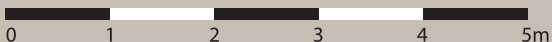
Broome garden design

This garden has a strong Broome flavour, with iconic bush tucker trees like Jigal and Gubinge, ancient plants from Broome's monsoon vine thickets, hardy plants that survive on the coastal dunes, and wattles, hakeas, grevilleas and bloodwoods from the pindan woodlands.



Gravel path

Mulch (up to 150 ml)



Broome garden design



Tall trees

Corymbia paractia
Eucalyptus jensenii



Medium trees

Bauhinia cunninghamii
Brachychiton diversifolius
Corymbia greeniana
Corymbia zygophylla
Melaleuca alsophila



Small trees

Dolichandrone heterophylla
Hakea arborescens
Hakea macrocarpa
Sersalisia sericea
Ventilago viminalis



Medium shrubs

Acacia monticola
Crotalaria cunninghamii
Gossypium australe
Jasminum didymum



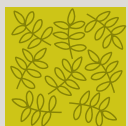
Small shrubs

Acacia adoxa
Acacia stellaticeps
Ficus scobina Benth.
Tephrosia rosea Benth.



Grasses

Cymbopogon procerus
Cyperus bulbosus
Triodia pungens
Ptilotus exaltatus Nees



Ground cover

Canavalia rosea
Gomphrena canescens



Path



Picnic table



Seating



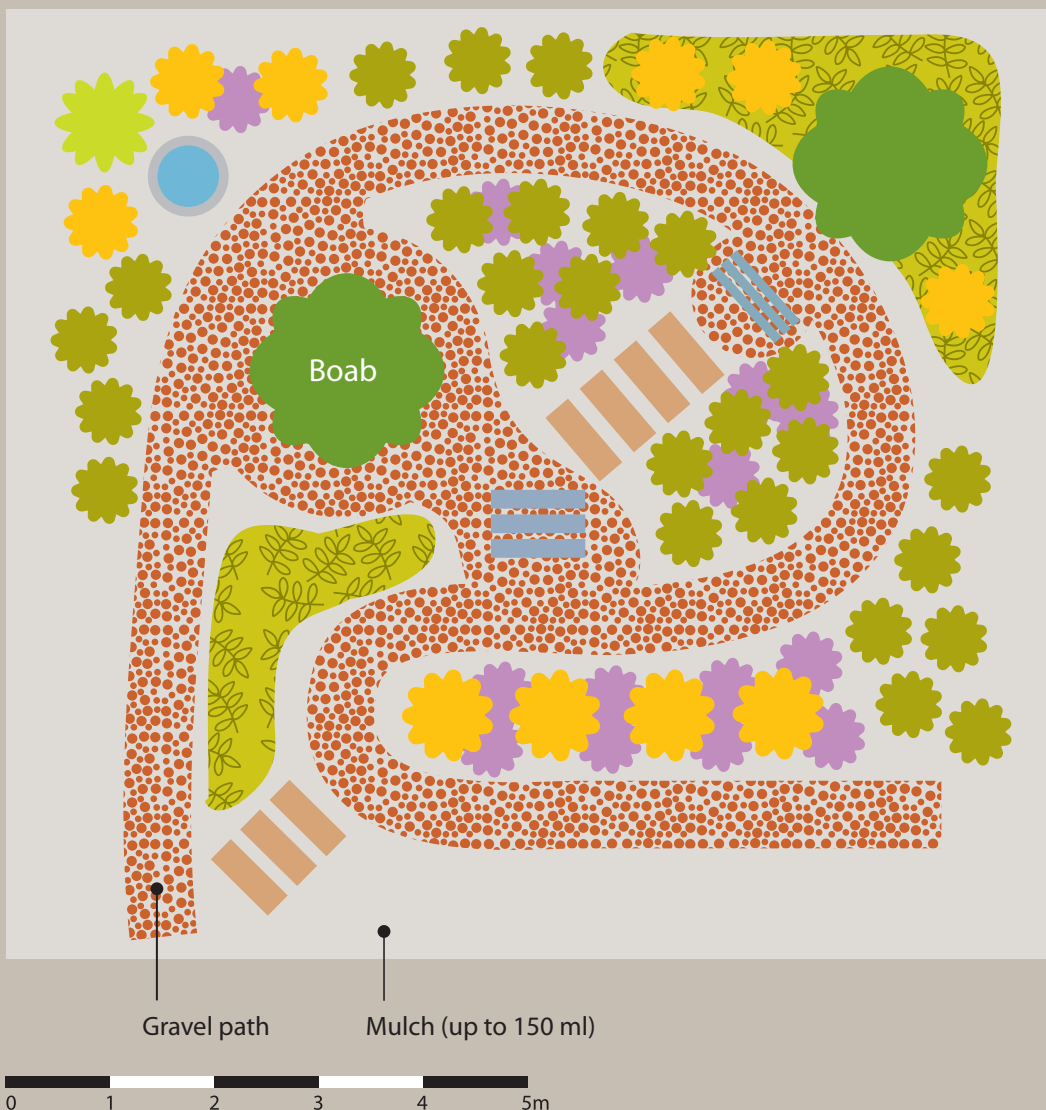
Wood step



Birdbath

Semi-arid garden design

Although Broome is often viewed as a tropical paradise, it has a harsh arid climate and we need to grow plants that are adapted to the climate and cope with periods without water. Gum trees, wattles, grevilleas, hakeas, paperbarks and mass plantings of mauve Mulla Mulla and grasses, will create a beautiful semi-arid garden that is full of colour and birdlife.



Semi-arid garden design



Tall trees

Adansonia gregorii
Eucalyptus miniata
Eucalyptus jensenii



Small trees

Hakea macrocarpa
Ficus aculeate/brachipoda
Ficus scobina Benth.



Grasses

Cymbopogon procerus
Ptilotus exaltatus nees
Templetonia hookeri



Medium shrubs

Acacia retivenea
Calytrix exstipulata
Senna artemisioides



Small shrubs

Grevillea dryandri
Tephrosia rosea Benth.



Ground cover

Distimake davenportii
Ipomoea costata
Ptilotus sp.
Gomphrena sp.



Seating



Path



Picnic table



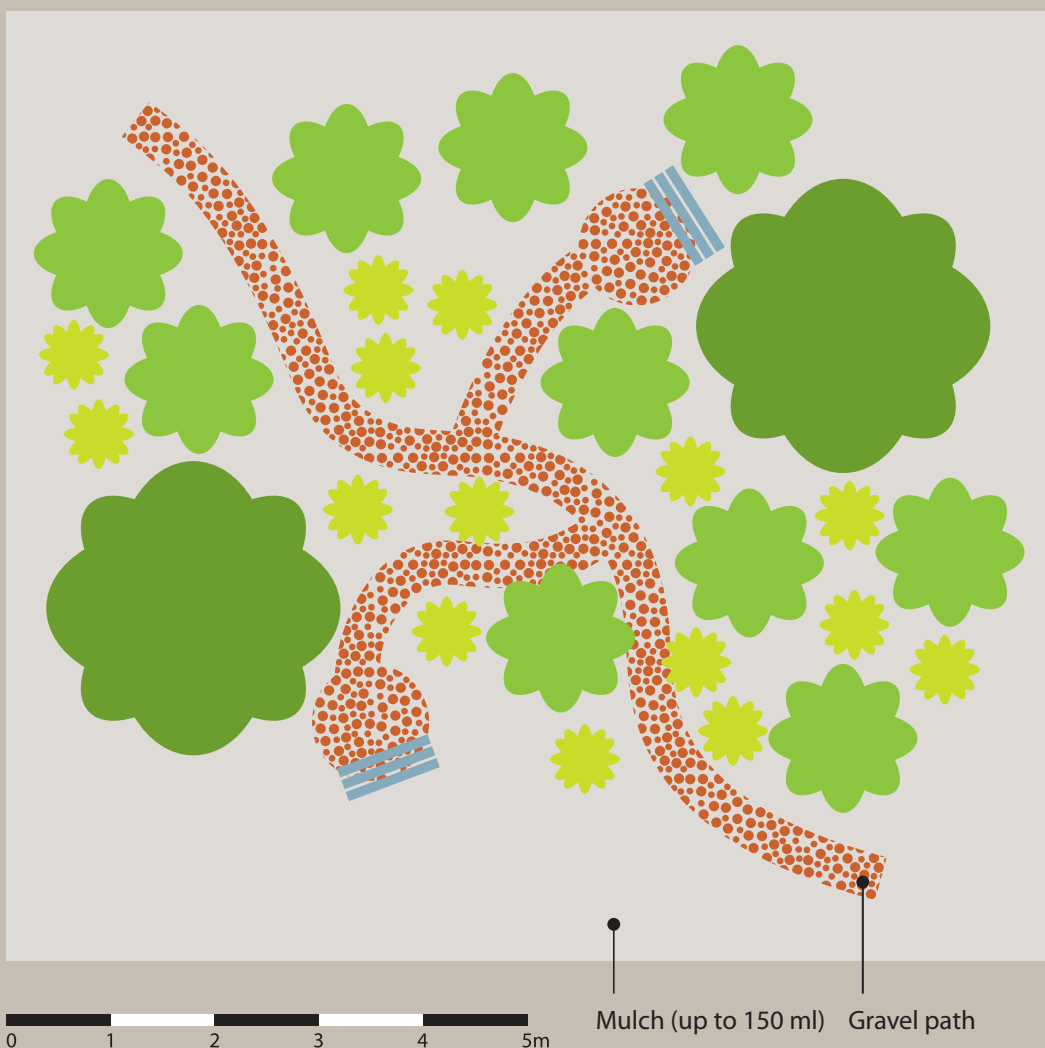
Wood step



Birdbath

Rainforest garden design

Local coastal plants, particularly those in the monsoon vine thickets behind Broome's sand dunes, like a little extra water, so group them together to create a cool micro rainforest. Bush tucker trees and shrubs, lilies with scented flowers, herbs, shiny leathery Mangrove Ferns and delicate climbing ferns work well together, as they have similar water and light needs. A basin to trap rain and water from irrigation, attracts frogs and birdlife and reduces run-off from your garden into Roebuck Bay during wet weather.



Rainforest garden design



Tall trees

Canarium australianum
Mimusops elengi



Medium trees

Grewia breviflora



Small trees

Celtis strychnoides
Sersalisia sericea
Syzygium eucalyptoides
Diospyros humilis



Tall shrubs

Myoporum montanum



Medium shrubs

Pavetta kimberleyana

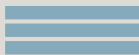


Small shrubs & ferns

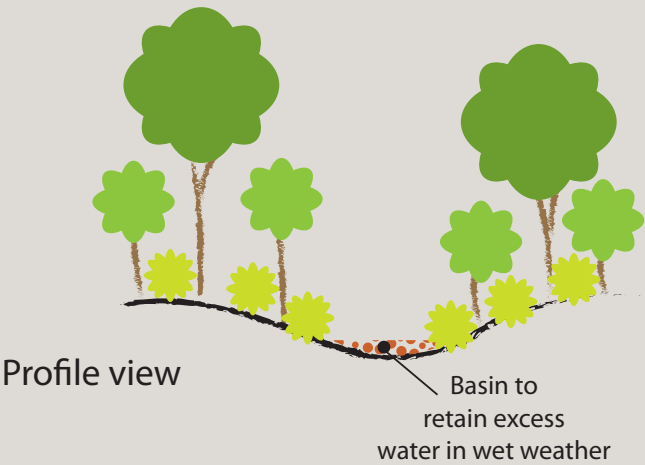
Acrostichum speciosum
Plumbago zeylanica
Crinum angustifolium



Path



Seating



Profile view

Basin to
retain excess
water in wet weather

Growing local coastal plants

When to plant?

The optimum time is from September when the soil warms up and plants come out of dormancy.

Planting

Dig hole more than twice the size of the plant container and soak well. Water seedling in its pot then plant, ensuring contact between the soil and roots. Excavate a deep moat to trap rain and water from irrigation. Plant seedlings early or late in the day when it's cooler.

Watering

Irrigate newly planted seedlings daily for one to two months with an efficient drip system, then water twice weekly for a year. Thereafter only water once a week, although vine thicket species do well with twice weekly irrigation. Check drippers often for blockages and clear.

Mulching

Organic mulch improves retention of water and root density, reduces erosion and suppresses weeds. Top up regularly and keep away from plant stem. Gravel and river stones are good too, they are aesthetically pleasing and excellent for trapping rainwater.

Fertilising

Fertilisers aren't usually needed by local coastal plants. If you do fertilise, apply organic, native plant, slow release fertiliser under mulch so it doesn't wash into stormwater drains which discharge into Roebuck Bay. Follow product's advice and don't overuse.

Maintaining local plants

Most local coastal plants appreciate a light trim to keep their shape, promote growth and flowering. Pruning is best done after flowering.

Attracting Wildlife

A local coastal garden with a variety of trees, shrubs and ground covers will attract wildlife, even more so with a birdbath or fish pond.



Sourcing local coastal plants

There are three nurseries supplying local plants grown from seeds or cuttings collected from Broome and the Dampier Peninsula.

- Broome Nursery and Pets
512 Broome Road. 9192 1279
- Kimberley Environmental Horticulture
0439 511 985
kimenvhort@yahoo.com.au <https://northwestplants.net/>
- Mamabulanjin Aboriginal Corporation, 16 Dora Street, Broome
9192 1329
www.mama.org.au/gardening-landscaping/

Another way to source native plants is to join the local volunteer Landcare group. The Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals (SKIPAS) meet weekly to propagate native plants, or undertake 'landcare' projects. SKIPAS also go on field trips to collect seed and learn about Kimberley plants and animals.
skipas@environskimberley.org.au

Keep an eye out for local plant giveaways run by the Roebuck Bay Working Group, the Shire of Broome and SKIPAS.

Please note: Native flora (including flowers, stems, cuttings, seeds, whole plants, timber and firewood) is protected in Western Australia under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018. The collection of flora for both commercial and non-commercial purposes requires a licence. Please refer to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Parks and Wildlife Service website for further information
www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-authorities

Useful resources

Websites

For more inspiration and information...

- FloraBase, the Western Australia database for Flora
<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>
- Plants of the North West Australian Region
<https://northwestplants.net/>
- Roebuck Bay Working Group www.roebuckbay.org.au
- Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals
<http://skipas.wordpress.com/>
- Department of Agriculture and Food
www.agric.wa.gov.au/pests-weeds-diseases/weeds

Books

- Broome and beyond: Plants and People of the Dampier Peninsula, Kimberley, Western Australia - Kevin F. Kenneally, Daphne Choules Edinger and Tim Willing, 1996.
- Kimberley Indigenous Trees in Broome - Tom Harley and Libby Lovegrove, 2014.
- Kimberley WEEDS - Environs Kimberley, 2016.
- Mayi: Some bush fruits of Dampierland - Merilee Lands, 1990.
- Plants of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia - RJ Petheram and B Kok, 1983.
- Pilbara Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes - N Smith and M Clark, 2014.
- SKIPA Guide to Planting a Garden in Broome North - Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals, 2014.
- Top End Native Plants - John Brock, 1988.
- Valuable & Threatened: Monsoon Vine Thickets of the Dampier Peninsula - Broome Botanical Society, 2013.
- Native Plants for Top End Gardening - Nicholas Smith, 2007.
- Weeds of the Wet / Dry Topics of Australia: A Field Guide
Nicholas M. Smith, Environment Centre NT, 2002.

Notes

Notes

Acknowledgements

This book has been produced by Roebuck Bay Working Group. Written and compiled by Kandy Curran, weed descriptions by Andrew Mitchell, garden designs by Philip Docherty & Christine Howe-Piening, and expert help from Tom Harley (Kimberley Environmental Horticulture), Philip Docherty (Society of Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals), Christine Howe-Piening, Tim Willing, Bruce Greatwich & Nicole Godfrey (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) and Dr Malcolm Lindsay (Environs Kimberley).

Thanks to the Yawuru Traditional Owners for protecting and preserving Broome's land and sea country. Thanks to Dr Alexander Watson, Grey Mackay, Julie Melbourne and Dr John Curran for exemplary support throughout the project.

The Roebuck Bay Working Group also acknowledges and thanks the people who provided their images for this guide: Kandy Curran, Tom Harley, Philip Docherty, Lochman Transparencies, Roger Fryer, Jill Newland, Forest & Kim Starr, Environs Kimberley, Darren Williams and Ricki Coughlan.

Concept: Claire Lock, Rural Solutions SA.

The Roebuck Bay Working Group gratefully acknowledges the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board for allowing their Coastal Gardens Planting Guide to be adapted for Broome on the Dampier Peninsula.

Published by Roebuck Bay Working Group Inc, February 2019.

Desktop publishing by Ricki Coughlan.

Printed by Pindan Printing, Broome.



With support from
Royalties for Regions



Kimberley Region NRM

Lotteries House, Unit 11, 20 Cable Beach Road, Broome WA 6725

<https://rangelandswa.com.au/who-we-are-2/what-are-the-rangelands/kimberley/>



This book has been produced through funding from State NRM with support from Royalties for Regions and Rangelands NRM through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

The advice contained in this publication is intended as a source of information only. While all due care has been taken in compiling this information, contributors to this publication do not guarantee that the publication is without flaws and therefore disclaim all liability for any errors or omissions, loss, damage or consequence which may arise from any information given in this publication.