

Locally Native Plants

Native vs. locally native

Locally native plants or indigenous plants are those that have evolved and adapted to local conditions over a long period of time. Unlike native plants, which refers to plants from anywhere in Australia, locally native plants are those that have occurred naturally in your area. Locally native plants occur in communities, where different groups of plants and animals (including insects) have evolved alongside each other.

When thinking about your own garden, it is important to know that many indigenous plants make excellent garden specimens but, more than that, they will likely save you a lot of work down the track. Locally native plants have naturally adapted and are uniquely suited to the local soils and climates and will readily grow without almost no need for soil improvement, fertilisers and chemicals. They also pose no weed threat to the local environment, unlike many exotic and native plants do, which is great for biodiversity.

Locally native plants also reflect the original character of an area, and planting even a selection of indigenous plants in your garden can make a positive impact to neighbouring wildlife corridors, open spaces and areas of remnant bush.



Locally native plants in the Dianella Microforest

Our Dianella Microforest is located within the City of Greater Dandenong and many of the plants found here are locally native to this municipality. You can learn more about some of these on our "[Meet the plants](#)" page.

Every council has a list of indigenous plants in their area, and many have this list available to gardeners wanting to incorporate locally native plants into their own gardens. Visit your local council website for this list or, even better, head to your local indigenous nursery for a browse and a chat to some of the knowledgeable team, who will be more than happy to point you in the right direction.

Another great source of information can be your local chapter of the Australian Plants Society (APS), committed to promoting the preservation and appreciation of Australian plants. With great online resources and regular in-person events, it's a great way to grow your knowledge and appreciation of the indigenous plants in your area. <https://apsvic.org.au/>

