

# Tambo Bluff Indigenous Planting Guide

## Why Grow Indigenous Plants?



- Indigenous plants have evolved over many thousands of years along with indigenous animals and soil micro-organisms to cope with the local climate and soils. Plants are one important part of this complex web of interdependent organisms that form our biological environment or biosphere.
- The same species of plant can develop genetic differences according to geographic location. Plants sourced from local seed (provenance) will have the best chance of survival and will help to maintain biodiversity, the essential ingredient of a healthy environment.
- Indigenous plants provide food and shelter (habitat) for indigenous animals, many of which have become locally extinct over the past 200 years due to vegetation clearing and changed land-use practices.
- Growing a variety of indigenous plant types of different height and growth form will create a complex environment with suitable habitat for many indigenous species of birds, mammals, lizards and frogs.
- Indigenous plants have low fertiliser and pesticide requirements, which means healthier soils, more beneficial insects and less water pollution. Once established they require minimal maintenance and minimal watering.

## Background

Tambo Bluff is situated at the eastern edge of the Red Gum Plains. Soils comprise sandy topsoils about 0.3 metres deep over low permeability clays which in turn overlay deep sandy and gravelly soils. The clay subsoil is found on the higher flat areas (plateau) and the sands and gravels are exposed on the sides of the gullies, cut through the clay plateau by ancient streams. Over time as the Gippsland Lakes formed, the streams were blocked by barrier beaches, creating the wetlands.

Tambo Bluff was grazed and farmed from about 1860 and progressively cleared of major vegetation up to the 1940s, prior to subdivision in 1960. The whole property was gazetted a Sanctuary for Native Game in 1923 (revoked in 1960). Red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis* ssp. *mediana*) and Coast grey box (*E. bosistoana*) are the dominant trees of the plateau with White stringybark (*E. globoidea*),

Apple box (*E. bridgesiana*), Coast manna gum (*E. pryoriana*) and Southern mahogany (*E. botryoides*) found on the exposed gully sands and gravels.

Native vegetation communities are classified by their Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC). Tambo Bluff contains major elements of Plains Grassy Forest (EVC 151 listed as a threatened community) and Lagoon wetlands (EVC 681) with pockets of Shrubby Damp Forest (EVC 316) and Remnant Littoral Rainforest (EVC 695 listed under the EPBC Act). Further information: [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/bap\\_landsc\\_ape\\_red\\_gum](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/bap_landsc_ape_red_gum) [www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/pubs/littoral-rainforest.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/pubs/littoral-rainforest.pdf)

## A Selection of Indigenous Species

### Trees

Blue box (*Eucalyptus bauerana*) \*  
Coast grey box (*E. bosistoana*)  
Red gum (*E. tereticornis* ssp. *mediana*)  
Red ironbark (*E. tricarpa*)  
White stringybark (*E. globoidea*)  
Apple box (*E. bridgesiana*)  
Southern mahogany (*E. botryoides*)  
Red box (*E. polyanthemus*)  
Coast manna gum (*E. pryoriana*)

### Small trees & shrubs 2-6 m

Drooping she-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) \*  
Black she-oak (*A. littoralis*)  
Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) \*  
Lightwood (*A. implexa*) \*  
Black wattle (*A. mearnsii*) \*  
Golden wattle (*A. pycnantha*)  
Sunshine wattle (*A. terminalis*) \*  
Silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*) \*  
Prickly tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*)  
Rough-barked honey myrtle (*Melaleuca parvistaminea*)  
Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) \*  
Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) \*  
Tree violet (*Melicactus dentatus*)  
Common Boobialla (*Myoporum insulare*) \*\*  
Hazel Pomaderris (*Pomaderris aspera*) \*  
Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*) \*

### Smaller shrubs, creepers, grasses and groundcovers

Austral indigo (*Indigofera australis*)  
Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*)  
Woolly Grevillea (*Grevillea lanigera*)  
Snow daisy (*Olearia lirata*)

Prickly currant-bush (*Coprosma quadrifida*)  
 Kangaroo apple (*Solanum aviculare*) \*  
 Honey-pots (*Acrotriche serrulata*)  
 Cranberry heath (*Astroloma humifusum*)  
 Common flat-pea (*Platylobium obtusangulum*)  
 Common apple-berry (*Billardiera scandens*)  
 Creeping Bossiaea (*Bossiaea prostrata*)  
 Common rice-flower (*Pimelea humilis*)  
 Clustered everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)  
 Common everlasting (*C. apiculatum*) \*  
 Grey-leaf guinea flower (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*)  
 Gorse bitter-pea (*Daviesia ulicifolia* ssp. *ruscifolia*)  
 Coast beard-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*)  
 Love creeper (*Comesperma volubile*)  
 Forest Clematis (*Clematis glycinoides*)  
 Purple coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*)  
 Wonga vine (*Pandorea pandorana*)  
 Wombat berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*)  
 Nodding blue-lily (*Stypandra glauca*)  
 Yellow rush-lily (*Tricoryne elatior*)  
 Chocolate lily (*Arthropodium strictum*)  
 Bulbine lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*) \*  
 Black-anther flax lily (*Dianella revoluta*) \*  
 Pale-anther flax lily (*D. longifolia*) \*  
 Tasman flax lily (*D. tasmanica*) \*  
 Ivy-leaf violet (*Viola hederacea*) \*  
 Sprawling bluebell (*Wahlenbergia gracilis*)  
 Wattle mat-rush (*Lomandra filiformis*)  
 Spiny-headed mat-rush (*L. longifolia*) \*  
 Wallaby-grasses (*Austrodanthonia* spp.)  
 Spear-grasses (*Austrostipa* spp.)  
 Weeping grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) \*  
 Common tussock-grass (*Poa labillardierei*)  
 Grey tussock-grass (*P. sieberiana*)  
 Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) \*

(\* = fire retardant, may burn when dry. \*\* = fire resistant, won't burn under 'normal' fire conditions. ASGAP)



Sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) needs Black wattle for winter food and tree hollows for nesting.

### Planting Notes

- Aspect is important. North facing slopes in particular dry out very quickly in hot weather. Use mulch and water-well to establish plants. South facing slopes retain moisture at depth and support warm temperate rainforest species in the gullies.
- Average annual rainfall over the past 10 years = 590mm.
- The clay soils are poorly drained and slightly acidic. Break up clay below planting depth, but don't worry too much about pH. Most south-east Australian plants will cope. Sandy soils allow good root penetration but will dry rapidly at the surface. Use water gel crystals or similar.
- Don't over-fertilise indigenous plants – use slow-release native plant food if required.
- Winds are strong – south-westerly in winter and easterly in summer – and can rapidly deplete soil moisture. Build or grow a windbreak to provide shelter for more sensitive species.
- *Kikuyu* grass is highly aggressive and competitive. Physical removal of rhizomes is best; use bioactive Glyphosate or similar non-residual 'frog-friendly' herbicide if necessary.
- Rabbits will quickly destroy your plants given a chance. Use plant guards or rabbit-proof fencing. If planting for native animal habitat, remember wallabies, echidnas, wombats and tortoises will also be excluded by a rabbit-proof fence so individual guards may be the best option.
- All plants will burn under extreme conditions but vegetation can help slow wind speed, an important determinant of fire intensity, and can also stop embers blowing into your house. Some plants are fire resistant or fire retarding and can be used for windbreaks. Keep your walls and rooves clear of flammable material.
- If using non-indigenous plants, avoid invasive weeds such as *Agapanthus praecox*. See 'Common Weeds of Gippsland' published by East Gippsland Shire [www.egipps.vic.gov.au](http://www.egipps.vic.gov.au)
- Contact Tambo Bluff Landcare Coastcare for local assistance and also visit these websites: <http://asgap.org.au/> [www.apsvic.org.au/](http://www.apsvic.org.au/)



visit: <http://tblc.org.au>  
 contact: [president@tblc.org.au](mailto:president@tblc.org.au)  
 join: Tambo Bluff Landcare Coastcare