

Tips for success

A successful cottage garden is colourful. It will contain a mix of hardy feature plants with year round interest plus smaller shrubs, perennials and grasses to add seasonal colour and contrasting forms.

Selecting plants

- Observe the varying conditions of different areas of your garden. Light (sun and shade), soil type (sand, clay, loam) and drainage affect plant choices
- Research which native plants are best suited to your garden's specific conditions
- Decide which plants appeal to you
- Understand each plant's requirements. When in doubt check where they grow naturally
- Group plants with similar needs to assist with garden maintenance

Create harmony and interest

- Start by selecting feature or larger 'structural' plants. Select hardy plants providing year-round interest which will grow to a size suited to your garden
- Next, choose a range of small shrubs, ground covers, perennials and grasses to give contrast and seasonal variety
- Consider height and spread of each plant, laying all out before planting
- Create harmony and balance by repetition of one or more plant varieties in your preferred colours. Grasses or 'strappy' plants are perfect for this

Create a

COTTAGE GARDEN

with
NATIVE PLANTS



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Native plants for your Cottage garden

Ground Covers

Useful for rockeries, raised gardens, retaining walls

Native Sarsaparilla, *Hardenbergia violacea*

Several varieties with purple or white flowers

- Very showy spring flowering
- Hardy in most well drained soils

Hairy guinea flower, *Hibbertia vestita*

- Large buttercup yellow flowers
- Dense habit, spreads to approx. 1m

Goodenia, *Goodenia ovata*

Variety 'Gold Cover' is suggested.

- Attractive bright green foliage
- Dense habit, dainty yellow flowers



Low growing plants

For form, texture and flowers

Blueberry Flax Lily, *Dianella caerulea*

Variety 'Little Jess' is suggested.

- Compact, gently spreading, sun or shade
- Attractive sprays of purple flowers in spring

Wallum Dampiera, *Dampiera stricta*

Variety 'Glasshouse Glory' is suggested.

- Long flowering, deep purple-blue flowers
- Open habit, lightly spreading

Midyim Berry, *Austromyrtus dulcis*

- Spreading habit, leaf tips bronze
- Small white flowers, edible berries
- 'Copper Tops' is a more compact hybrid

Native plants for your Cottage garden

Small shrubs 1-1.5m

Prune to maintain form and height

Rosemary Grevillea, *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*

Variety 'Scarlet Sprite' is hardy and bird attracting

- Compact habit, fine-leaved foliage
- Showy, small red flowers in spring

Thyme Honey Myrtle, *Melaleuca thymifolia*

Varieties in purple, pink and white

- Attractive fine grey-green foliage
- Delicate, eye-catching flowers

Melaleuca (Callistemon) 'Hinchinbrook'

- Spectacular large red brushes, gold-tipped
- Spreading habit, bronze new growth

Medium shrubs

Use as a background or feature plants

Wild May, *Leptospermum polygalifolium*

Variety 'Cardwell' is popular

- Attractive weeping habit
- A "snow-storm" of white flowers in spring

Rice Flower, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*

Variety 'Radiance' is a compact shrub with aromatic leaves

- Clusters of small white flowers
- Great cut flower, attractive fine foliage

Swamp Banksia, *Banksia robur*

- Very adaptable feature plant
- Attractive flowers and large serrated leaves