

GUILDERTON SEABIRD LEDGE POINT LANCELIN CERVANTES JURIE BAY LEEMAN
DONGARA GERALDTON GREEN HEAD HORROCKS KALBARRI

Coastal Gardens

*A Planting Guide for the
coastal region between
Guilderton and Kalbarri*



Healthy and attractive urban landscapes

The Northern Agricultural Region (NAR) of Western Australia is renowned for its stunning wildflower displays from late winter to early summer, when visitors come from far and wide to visit and photograph this natural marvel.

Through well considered plant choices, our gardens can play an important role in helping to preserve and restore our unique plants and wildlife.

This *Planting Guide* provides simple garden advice for people living along the coast from Guilderton to Kalbarri.

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Using this *Planting Guide*

Getting started

Our gardens face a constant struggle against the harsh natural elements of the region. Long, hot summers, low rainfall, droughts, water restrictions and a changing climate make their survival a challenging task! If your garden is situated near the coast your plants may also be affected by salt spray, sand blasting, sandy or saline soils, and alkalinity.

This is where selecting local native plants can help. The plant species that are native to our region have evolved over thousands of years to cope with these harsh local conditions.

This *Planting Guide* will help you discover the stunning variety of plants native to this region, along with how to grow them in your garden. You will learn which plants work best for given areas, how to maintain them, and where they can be purchased.

You will also discover which introduced plant species are known to develop into serious weeds. This *Planting Guide* will help you replace or manage these plants if they are growing in your garden.

Selecting local native plants for your garden is an ideal way to help look after your local environment, while saving money on water and maintenance. Happy gardening!

Discovering local native plants

A plant that grew naturally in the local area before European settlement is called a 'local native'.

Local native plants have a huge range of benefits:

- High drought tolerance;
- Low maintenance;
- Minimal watering requirements;
- Minimal need for fertilisers or pesticides;
- Provision of habitat, food and shelter for wildlife;
- The ability to adapt to various landscaping styles; and
- Striking, unique foliage and flowers found nowhere else in the world.

There is a local native plant alternative for most garden situations. The plants featured in this *Planting Guide* include striking ground-covers, low shrubs, structured sedges and grasses, flowering creepers, bird attracting shrubs, and screening trees.

Many of the recommended plants in this *Planting Guide* also have a high tolerance to wind, salt spray and other harsh coastal conditions.

What is a local plant?

Why use local plants?

Garden escapees

Are you harbouring known villains?



Weeds are introduced plants, or native plants growing outside their range, that are known to become harmful intruders. Weeds often come from parts of the world with similar climates, such as Mediterranean countries and South Africa. Thriving in this region's conditions, they can out-compete local natives, as the pests and diseases that controlled them in their original country are not present in Australia. You may be surprised to find a number of potential garden escapees lurking in your own backyard.

A plant that escapes from your garden and spreads can create a number of serious problems, including:

- Destroying habitat, shelter and food for native animals;
- Changing soil conditions;
- Clogging up waterways and affecting water quality;
- Providing homes for pests such as foxes, feral cats and rats, which all prey on native animals;
- Invading local bushland reserves; and
- Being very costly to control.

Some of Australia's most invasive weeds have become such a serious and costly problem that they have been termed 'Weeds of National Significance', or WoNS. For example, a common garden plant in this region, *Lantana camara*, is actually classified as a WoNS and should be quickly eradicated. A local plant substitute could be a *Verticordia densiflora*.

For more information visit: www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/

How do garden plants become coastal invaders?

Garden plants can escape into the local environment naturally, accidentally or deliberately:

- Seeds spread naturally via animals, wind, soil and water movement;
- Human activities that spread weeds include:
 - Dumped garden clippings containing seeds or plant cuttings;
 - Deliberately planted species for beautification and landscaping; and
 - Garden plants that grow through backyard fences directly into nearby coastal vegetation.

You can help!








The following pages will help you identify which common garden plants can become environmental ‘invaders’. You might like to remove any of these plants that you have in your garden and replace them with the local native plants suggested. This *Planting Guide* can also be handy to take with you when buying new plants. Some other easy things you can do to reduce the impact of weeds include:

- Disposing of your garden waste responsibly, by bagging your waste and taking it to the rubbish tip;
- Checking with your local government before you plant into natural coastal environments;
- Joining a local Coastcare Group or herbarium to learn more about your coast; or
- Contact the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) or your local government for information on how to get involved in looking after the environment in your area.

If you have a plant that you would like to remove from your garden but are not sure how, contact NACC for information.

Helpful symbols

Below is a list of symbols used throughout this *Planting Guide* to help you determine if a plant is appropriate for your garden.

	Salt Spray		Drought Tolerant or Little water needed		
	Sunlight Tolerance (Full sun)		Bird Attracting		Wind Tolerant
	Sunlight Tolerance (Part shade)		Wildlife attracting		WoNS
	Weed		Butterfly attracting		

Trees and tall shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Japanese or Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) **Origin:** Tropical South America

Flowers: White-cream, from February to March. Red fruits are produced in clusters

Reproduces via: Seed and suckers

Escapes via: Humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings), soil and water movement, birds and small mammals (ingestion)



Century plant (*Agave americana*) **Origin:** South Africa

Flowers: Yellow, from December to January. Flowers held on long upright stems

Reproduces via: Seed and suckers

Escapes via: Wind dispersal, water movement, humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings)



African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) **Origin:** South Africa

Flowers: White to purple to blue, from April to December. Stems have long sharp thorns. Red fruits

Reproduces via: Seed, root suckers and stem fragments

Escapes via: Humans (garden refuse), soil and water movement, animals (ingestion)



Athel pine (*Tamarix aphylla*) **Origin:** South-east Europe

Flowers: Pale pink to white, from September to December

Reproduces via: Seed, stem and root fragments

Escapes via: Humans (machinery, garden refuse), water movement, wind dispersal



Victorian tea tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) **Origin:** South-east Australia

Flowers: White, from May to October. Note: Fruits are much larger than the local native *Leptospermum*

Reproduces via: Prolific seed.

Escapes via: Wind dispersal, soil and water movement, humans (vehicles, garden refuse)



GROW ME *instead*



Blueberry Tree (*Myoporum insulare*)

Form: Dense, spreading or erect shrub or tree, from 0.25 m to 5 m high

Flowers: White, from July to February. Purple fruits

Soil: Sandy soils. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Chenille Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca huegelii*)

Form: Shrub or tree from 0.5 m to 5 m high

Flowers: Pink to white to pink-purple, from September to January

Soil: Sandy soils. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Illyarrie (*Eucalyptus erythrocorys*)

Form: Small to medium tree, from 3 m to 8 m high, with smooth bark

Flowers: Bright yellow, from February to April

Soil: Sandy, alkaline soils



Dongara Mallee (*Eucalyptus obtusiflora*)

Form: Tree up to 5 m high, with fibrous and smooth bark

Flowers: White, from January to May

Soil: Sand and loam soils



Dune Sheoak (*Allocasuarina lehmanniana*)

Form: Tall compact shrub, from 0.5 m to 4 m high

Flowers: Red, on female plants only. Female plants produce small brown nuts; male plants produce dark orange to brown pollen on branch ends

Soil: Sandy soils, clay and gravel



Trees and tall shrubs

GROW ME *instead*



Geraldton Wax (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*)

Form: Erect shrub from 0.5 m to 4 m high

Flowers: White-pink, from June to November

Soil: White, grey or yellow sands



Native Hibiscus (*Alyogyne hakeifolia*)

Form: Erect, slender or spreading shrub, from 1 m to 3 m high. Leaves are thin, soft spikes

Flowers: Range from blue-purple to yellow, from May to February

Soil: Prefers red sandy soil, rocky loam, and alkaline sandy soils



Ooragmandee (*Eucalyptus oraria*) - North NAR only

Form: Tall tree, from 1 m to 15 m high, bark is smooth but may have a rough base

Flowers: White, from May to October

Soil: Grows in sandy soil. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Pittosporum ligustrifolium

Form: Erect spreading shrub or tree, from 0.2 m to 4.5 m high

Flowers: White, yellow or cream, from April to November

Fruit is orange, 1 cm in diameter, and splits when ripe

Soil: Sandy soils including clayey sand and limestone



Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*) Semi-parasitic - requires a host plant

Form: Small tree or shrub, from 1 m to 7 m high

Flowers: Green-white or red-brown, from January to April, or July to October.

Produces round fruits up to 2 cm wide that turn red when ripe

Soil: sandy soils and clay loam



GROW ME *instead*



Rottnest Tea Tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*)

Form: Tall shrub or tree, from 1 m to 8 m high

Flowers: White to cream, from January to September

Soil: Sandy soil including limestone, clay or loam



Coastal Banksia (*Banksia attenuata*)

Form: Tree or tall shrub, from 0.5 m to 10 m high

Flowers: Large yellow and cylindrical, from October to February

Soil: Sandy soils



Silvery-leafed Grevillea (*Grevillea argyrophylla*) - North NAR only

Form: Small tree or shrub, from 1 m to 6 m high

Flowers: White-cream or cream-yellow, from July to October

Soil: A variety of sandy soils including limestone and sandstone



Tangling Melaleuca (*Melaleuca cardiophylla*)

Form: Erect to spreading shrub, from 0.4 m to 2m high and up to 3 m wide

Flowers: White-cream, from August to December or January

Soil: A variety of sandy soils



Coastal Wattle (*Acacia cyclops*)

Form: Dense shrub or tree, from 1 m to 6 m high

Flowers: Yellow, from September to December

Soil: Sandy soils, prefers alkaline coastal sand



Small to medium shrubs

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Rose Pelargonium (*Pelargonium capitatum*) **Origin:** South Africa
Flowers: Pink, purple and white, from August to December
Reproduces via: Seed (long lasting), root fragments
Escapes via: Wind dispersal, soil and water movement



Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) **Origin:** United States of America
Flowers: Yellow
Reproduces via: Seed
Escapes via: Animals (by ingestion), humans



Common Lantana (*Lantana camara*) **Origin:** Central and South America
Flowers: Cream-yellow, pink-purple or orange-red, from January to March or June to September
Reproduces via: Seed and root suckers
Escapes via: Humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings), animals (including birds), water movement



Veld Daisy (*Dimorphotheca ecklonis*) **Origin:** South Africa
Flowers: White-blue or purple, from October to February
Reproduces via: Seed and root suckers
Escapes via: Humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings)



Milkwort (*Polygala myrtifolia*) **Origin:** South Africa
Flowers: White and Purple, from August to October or December
Reproduces via: Seed
Escapes via: Humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings), birds, ants, soil and water movement



GROW ME *instead*



Coast Angianthus (*Angianthus cunninghamii*)

Form: Multi-branched bushy shrub, from 0.2 m to 0.5 m high. Grey leaves

Flowers: Globular and yellow, from February to August, or November to December

Soil: Sandy soil. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Coastal Daisy (*Olearia axillaris*)

Form: Upright, multi branched shrub, from 0.5 m to 3 m high. Grey leaves

Flowers: Small white-cream-yellow, from November to July

Soil: Sandy soils including red sand and loam.

Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Coastal Thryptomene (*Thryptomene baeckeacea*) (prostrate form)

Form: Spreading shrub, from 0.2 m to 1.2 m high, and up to 2 m wide

Flowers: Pink or purple-white, from May to October

Soil: Sandy soil. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Cockies Tongues (*Templetonia retusa*)

Form: Multi-branched shrub, from 0.3 m to 4 m high

Flowers: Usually vibrant red, rarely red-white or yellow, produced profusely in June

Soil: Sandy soil. Prefers rich alkaline coastal soils



Cushion Bush (*Leucophyta brownii*)

Form: Upright dense shrub, to 1 m high. Grey leaves

Flowers: Yellow, from December to February

Soil: Sandy soil, sand over limestone and brown sandy clay. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Small to medium shrubs

GROW ME *instead*



Dune Moses (*Acacia lasiocarpa*)

Form: Low lying shrub, from 0.15 m to 2 m high

Flowers: Yellow, from May to October

Soil: Variety of soils, including alkaline coastal sand

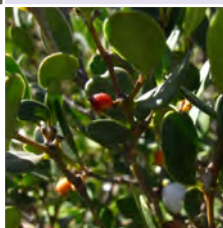


Geraldton Rose (*Diplolaena grandiflora*) - North NAR only

Form: Upright spreading shrub, from 0.5 m to 3 m high

Flowers: Pink-red, from May to October

Soil: Alkaline coastal sand



Dysentery Bush (*Alyxia buxifolia*)

Form: Upright or spreading shrub, from 1 m to 3 m high

Flowers: Small frangipani-like white-cream or cream-orange, for most of the year. Fruits are orange berries

Soil: A variety of soils including alkaline coastal sand



Melaleuca campanae

Form: Open shrub, up to 1 m high

Flowers: Deep pink-mauve, during November

Soil: Dry yellow sand over limestone



Melaleuca systema

Form: Erect to spreading shrub, from 0.5 m to 2 m high

Flowers: Yellow-cream, from February to March, or August to December

Soil: Sandy soil. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



GROW ME *instead*



Red Berry Saltbush (*Rhagodia preissii* subsp. *obovata*)

Form: Shrub, from 0.5 m to 2 m high

Flowers: Small, green-yellow, from May to August, followed by red berry fruits

Soil: Sandy soils. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Spoon-leafed Wattle (*Acacia spathulifolia*)

Form: Dense spreading shrub, from 0.5 m to 3 m high

Flowers: Bright yellow, from June to October

Soil: White, grey, yellow or red sand including coastal limestone



Thick-leaved Fan Flower (*Scaevola crassifolia*)

Form: Erect, spreading and dense shrub, from 0.1 m to 1.5 m high. Leathery green leaves

Flowers: Blue-purple or white, from July to February

Soil: Sandy soil. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Westringia dampieri

Form: Dense shrub, from 0.2 m to 1.5 m high

Flowers: White, from June to January

Soil: Sandy, alkaline coastal soils



Yanchep Rose (*Diplolaena angustifolia*) - South NAR only

Form: Upright compact or spreading shrub, from 0.3 m to 1.5 m high

Flowers: Red-orange, from June to October

Soil: Sandy soil. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Ground covers and herbs

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



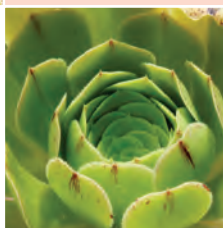
Gazania (*Gazania sp.*) **Origin:** South America
Flowers: Yellow to orange, for most of the year
Reproduces via: Seed and vegetatively
Escapes: Water movement, humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings, mowing)



Golden crownbeard (*Verbesina encelioides*)
Origin: United States of America and Mexico
Flowers: Yellow
Reproduces via: Seed
Escapes: Wind dispersal, humans and animals (adhesion)



Perennial sea lavender / Statice (*Limonium sinuatum*)
Origin: Europe, western Asia and northern Africa
Flowers: Purple-white or yellow, from September to May
Reproduces via: Seed
Escapes: Humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings, mowing / grading)



Succulents **Origin:** Africa, Mediterranean countries
Flowers: Various
Reproduces via: Most species spread vegetatively, some set seed
Escapes: Humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings), wind dispersal



Ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*)
Origin: South Africa and Mediterranean countries
Flowers: White, from September to February
Reproduces via: Seed
Escapes: Animals (by ingestion), water movement and wind dispersal



GROW ME *instead*



Blueberry Lilly (*Dianella revoluta*)

Form: Small clumping herb, from 0.3 m to 1.5 m high

Flowers: Varies from blue to purple to violet, from August to April

Soil: A variety of soils, including sandy soils



Coast Bone Fruit (*Threlkeldia diffusa*)

Form: Multi- branched, spreading to erect, succulent herb, from 0.1 m to 1 m high

Flowers: Green, from October to November

Soil: Sand, sand over limestone and clay



Ruby Saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa*)

Form: Sprawling to erect ground cover, from 0.1 m to 0.6 m high

Flowers: Small, white, from May to September. Produces red fruits

Soil: Variety of soils, often saline



Coastal Pigface (*Carpobrotus virescens*)

Form: Succulent herb, from 0.1 m to 0.3 m high, and from 0.5 m to 3 m wide

Flowers: Bright pink with yellow centres, from June to January

Soil: Sandy soil. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Tar or Emu Bush (*Eremophila glabra*)

Form: Sprawling shrub, from 0.1 m to 3 m high. Leaves may be grey or green

Flowers: Vary from green, yellow, orange, red or brown, from March to December

Soil: Sandy to clay soils and sometimes saline



Grasses and Sedges

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Buffalo Grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) **Origin:** Africa, North and South America

Flowers: November to March

Reproduces via: Vegetatively, sometimes seed

Escapes via: Humans (garden refuse), soil and water movement, vegetative spread, livestock faeces



Couch Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*)

Origin: Tropics world-wide

Flowers: December to February

Reproduces via: Seed in summer, also spreads vegetatively (including lawn clippings)

Escapes via: Water movement, humans (garden refuse)

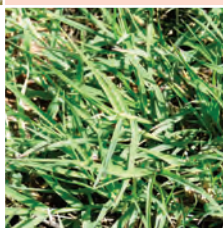


Fountain Grass (*Cenchrus setaceus*) **Origin:** East Africa and Middle East

Flowers: August to February

Reproduces via: Seed

Escapes via: Wind dispersal, water movement, humans (clothing, garden refuse, deliberate plantings)



Kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) **Origin:** East Asia

Flowers: December to February

Reproduces via: Vegetatively (lawn clippings)

Escapes via: Soil and water movement, humans (garden refuse), vegetative spread from properties



Walkaway Burr (*Cenchrus echinatus*) **Origin:** South America, southern North America

Flowers: January to August

Reproduces via: Seed

Escapes via: Wind dispersal, animals grazing, humans (clothing), soil and water movement



GROW ME *instead*



Coastal Spinifex (*Spinifex longifolius*)

Form: Tussock-forming grass, from 0.3 m to 1 m high, and 2 m wide

Flowers: Green-brown, from April to January. Male and female plants grow separately

Soil: Sandy soils. Prefers white sand and alkaline coastal sand



Coast Sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma gladiatum*)

Form: Tufted grass-like sedge, from 0.5 m to 1.5 m high, and clumps to 1.5 m wide. Flat long leaves

Flowers: Brown, from November to May

Soil: Sandy soil. Prefers alkaline coastal sand and loam



Coastal Poa (*Poa poiformis*)

Form: Tussock-forming grass, 0.15 m to 0.9 m high with thin leaves

Flowers: Green to brown-yellow, from October to November

Soil: Sandy soils



Knotted Club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*)

Form: Erect evergreen clumping plant, to 1 m high, and 0.8 m wide

Flowers: Brown and cream, from October to January

Soil: Alkaline coastal sand and sandy clay



Lomandra maritima

Form: Sedge-like plant, from 0.2 m to 0.6 m high, and clumps to 0.2 m wide

Flowers: Purple and yellow, from August to November. Male and Female plants grow separately

Soil: Sandy soil. Prefers alkaline coastal sand



Climbers

DON'T PLANT a garden escapee!



Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) **Origin:** South Africa
Flowers: White, from August to September
Reproduces via: Primarily seed, occasionally rhizomes/tubers. Germinates March to December
Escapes via: Humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings, machinery), animals, soil and water movement



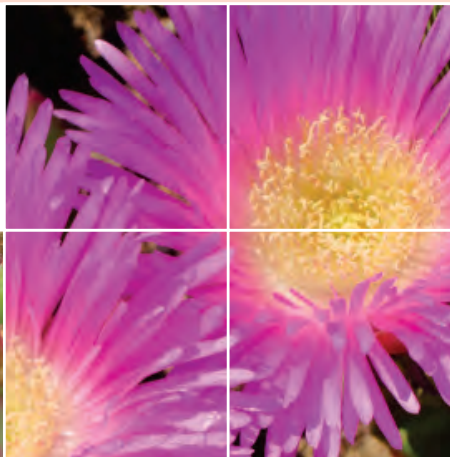
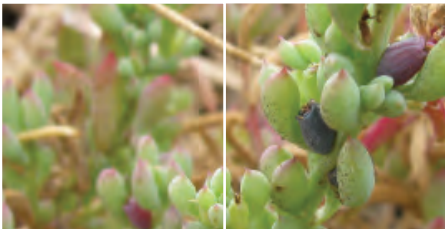
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*) **Origin:** South America
Flowers: Yellow, orange or red, from August to October
Reproduces via: Seed
Escapes via: Humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings), wind dispersal and water movement



Siratro or Purple Bean (*Macroptilium atropurpureum*) **Origin:** Tropical America
Flowers: Purple-black, pea-shaped, from March to November
Reproduces via: Seed and vegetatively
Escapes via: Humans, (garden refuse, deliberate plantings, machinery), animals, soil and water movement



Coastal Morning Glory (*Ipomoea cairica*)
Origin: India, tropical Africa
Flowers: Purple, from February to December
Reproduces via: Seed and vegetatively
Escapes via: Humans (garden refuse, deliberate plantings), wind dispersal and water movement



GROW ME *instead*



Native Grape (*Clematicissus angustissima*)

Form: Scrambling or twining herb or climber, up to 3 m high

Flowers: Green, white-cream or yellow, from January to May. Ripe fruits are purple and grape-like

Soil: Sandy and clay soils



Climbing Mulla Mulla (*Ptilotus divaricatus*)

Form: Flat to scrambling shrub, from 0.3 m to 1.5 m high

Flowers: White-cream or pink-purple, from September to December

Soil: Sandy soil



Native Yam (*Dioscorea hastifolia*)

Form: Tuberous climber, up to 3 m high

Flowers: Vibrant yellow, April to July. Produces a four winged edible fruit

Soil: Sandy soils



Native Wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*)

Form: Twining shrub or climber, can be trained as a screen on trellises, walls or fences, or as a ground cover

Flowers: Stunning purple-blue, from July to October

Soil: Sandy soil



Old Man's Beard (*Clematis linearifolia*)

Form: Climber

Flowers: Delicate white-cream, from July to October, followed by long hair-like strands

Soil: Coastal limey soils



Sourcing local coastal native plants

Not all nurseries stock local native plants. Ask your local nursery for plants of local provenance, meaning that they have been grown from seed or cuttings collected from the local area. These plants have adapted to local conditions and are the best plants for your garden.

You can search for nurseries that stock native plants online or in your local business directory. Some nurseries that stock native plants suitable for the NAR include:

- Lullfitz Nursery, Wanneroo - www.lullfitz.com.au
- Jurien Coastal Nursery, Jurien Bay
- Muchea Tree Farm, Muchea - www.muchteatreefarm.com.au
- Salmon Gums Community Nursery, C.Y. O'Connor Institute, Moora
- Mooreview Plants and Trees, Walkaway
- City of Greater Geraldton Community Nursery, Waggrakine - www.cgg.wa.gov.au/live/my-environment/community-nursery.aspx
- The Drylands Permaculture Farm, Waggrakine www.drylands.org.au

You may be able to place orders in advance during late spring to early summer. Advance orders are recommended if you need larger quantities of plants or would like to ensure the species you want are available.

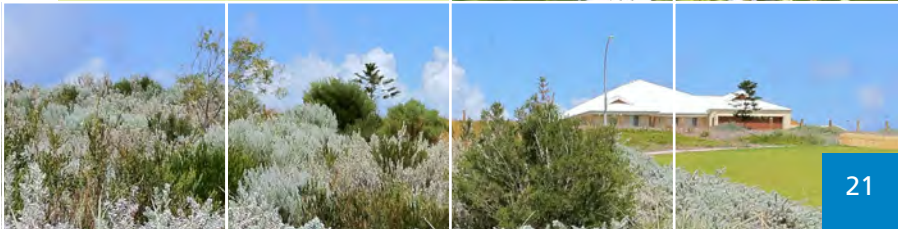


Designing your native garden

This section provides you with a process for planning and designing your garden. Every garden is unique - making planning essential for ensuring success. If you already have an established garden and want to include some local natives, you might prefer to skip this section and go to 'Growing local coastal plants' page 30.

It is important to remember that native plants have evolved to suit their natural environment, whereas your backyard is likely to have been changed by clearing, the introduction of foreign soils, building materials, exotic plant species, and water supplied via reticulated systems.

The combination of natural and modified features needs to be considered in order to provide the best environment for your new plants. It is also important to consider what may be buried in your front or back yard before you start digging. Make sure you contact 'Dial Before You Dig' on phone number 1100 or website www.1100.com.au, to identify where underground services are located.



STEP 1: House and garden interactions (site planning)

A good place to start planning is to sketch a simple site plan, which will provide a visual account of your site's features. The table below outlines a number of key factors that should be considered during the planning phase.

FEATURE	DESCRIPTION AND EXAMPLES
Existing physical features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Outline your property boundary;■ Note power, water, telephone and gas lines;■ Note existing trees, paths and structures (house, shed, etc.).
Microclimate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Identify plants, fences and buildings that are creating shelter on your site.
Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Identify the direction of North and mark it on your plan.
Slope/aspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Most suburban properties are relatively flat, however, if your site is on a slope it is important to note this on your site plan;■ The slope of your property will help to identify wetter and drier areas. These will be important for plant selection;■ A good way to represent slope is with contour lines. Accurate contours may require the use of survey equipment.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The soil on your property may include native soils, imported building sands, and gardening soils;■ Identify if your soil is sand, clay or loam (or a combination);■ Soils vary in their level of acidity. This is measured in pH, which can be determined by purchasing a simple test kit, available at most garden and hardware stores;■ If the soil types and pH vary across your property, it is useful to map this on your plan. You can then match the right plants to the right soil types.
Ground surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Take note of your ground surface – is it hard or soft, light or dark in colour? This can affect the temperature of your garden, as some surfaces will absorb heat while others will reflect it.

FEATURE

Wind

DESCRIPTION AND EXAMPLES

- Determine how exposed your site is to strong winds, noting where solid buildings and fences may increase wind speeds and its damaging effect, and where these physical barriers may provide wind protection;
- Some local native plants will have adapted to survive in strong winds, while others may require shelter. You may need to consider establishing windbreaks for protection.

Light/shade

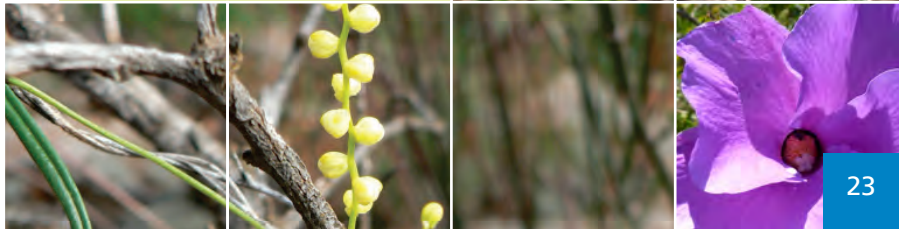
- Note on your plan where your site receives sunlight throughout the day, its intensity, and how this changes seasonally;
- This will help you determine the best location for different plants. It will also allow you to select plants to provide shade for certain areas of your house and garden;
- Buildings have a major effect on the microclimate of your property. Your house is likely to create a warm sunny area facing north, and a cool shady area on the south;
- Note that in summer the south side of the house is exposed to sunlight during the early morning and late afternoon, but is usually shaded in the middle of the day.

Views

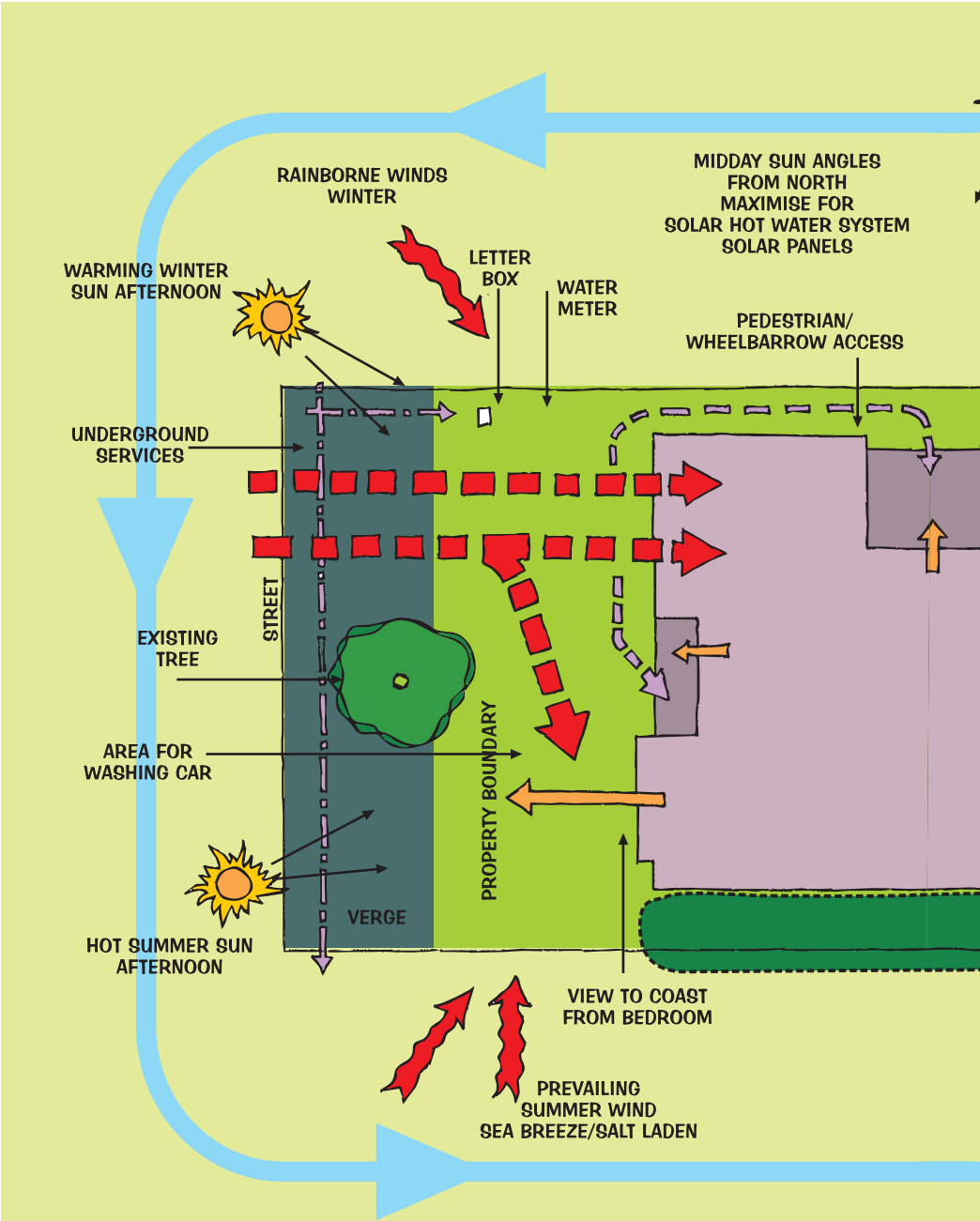
- Land around a suburban house may be open to views from the street and surrounding houses. Plants can be used to create strategic screens to separate private and public areas.

Traffic

- Be sure to consider the volume and type of traffic (for example, cars or pedestrians) that will pass through, or close to, your garden.

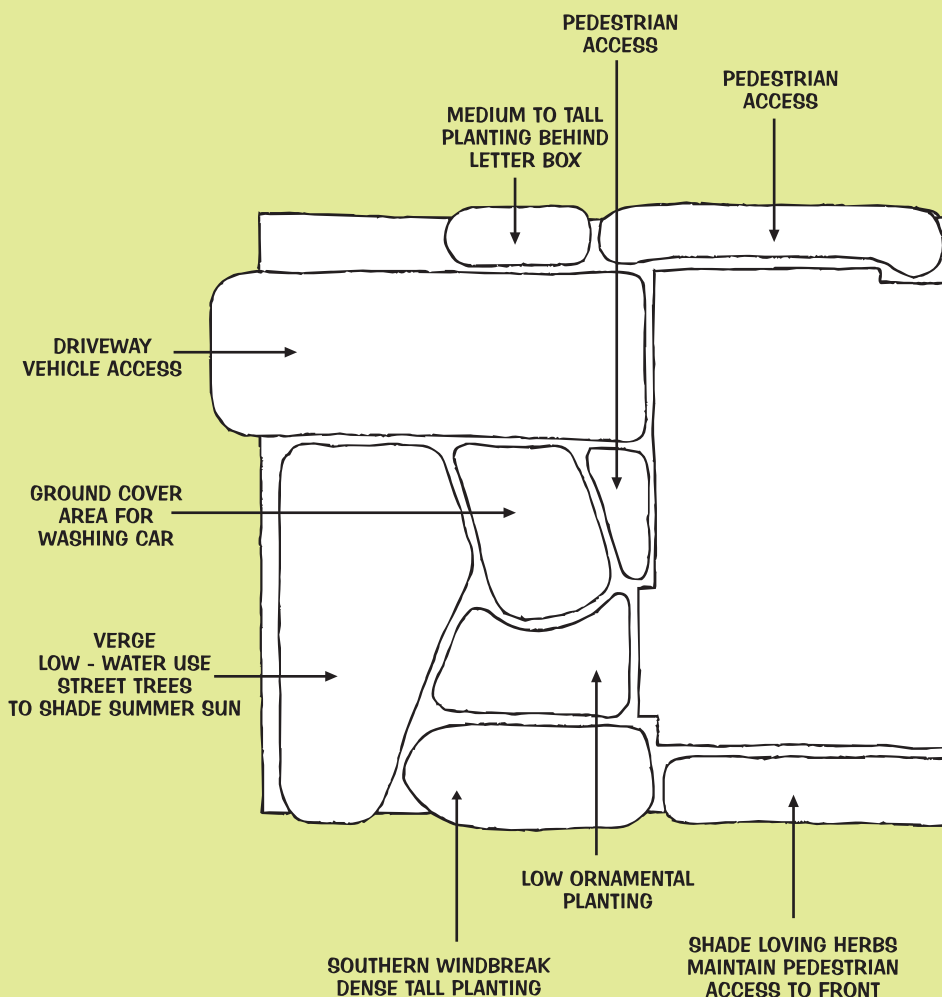


STEP 1: House and garden interactions (Site analysis)



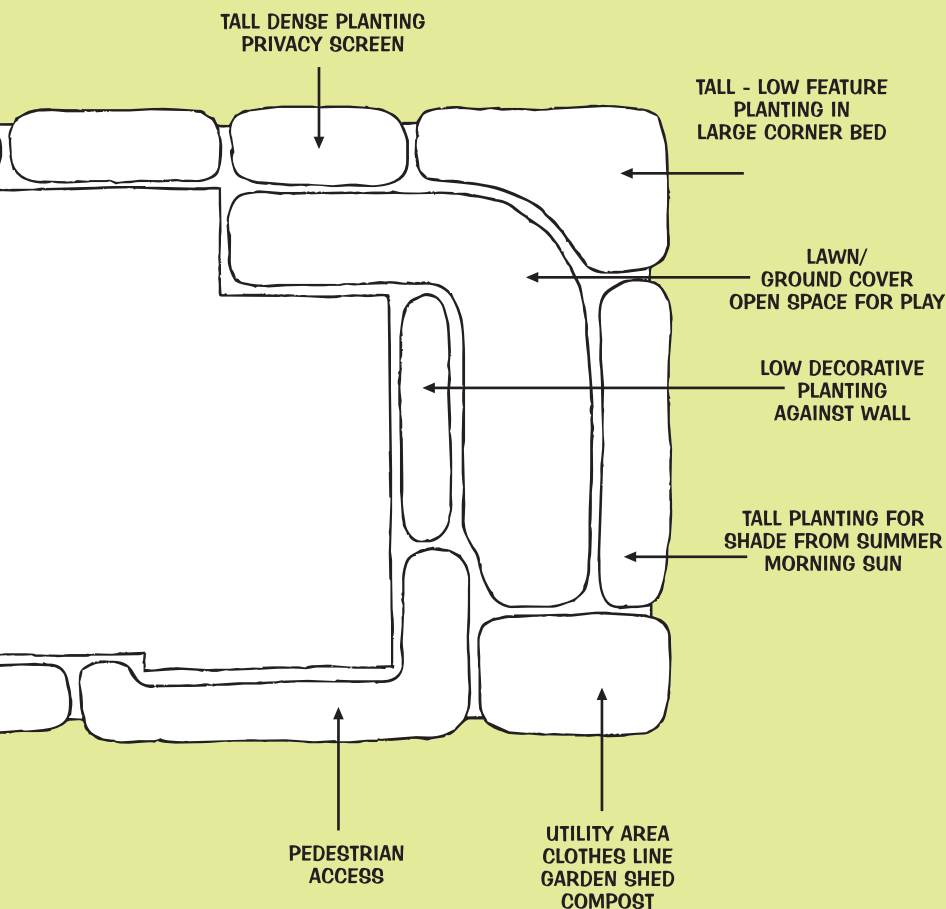
STEP 2: Concept planning (exploring your ideas)

Now that you've sketched the features of your property you can start to think about what you would like to add, remove, or change. Develop a list of your ideas. Be specific and include anything that will be required to make it happen, from plant species to new fencing.



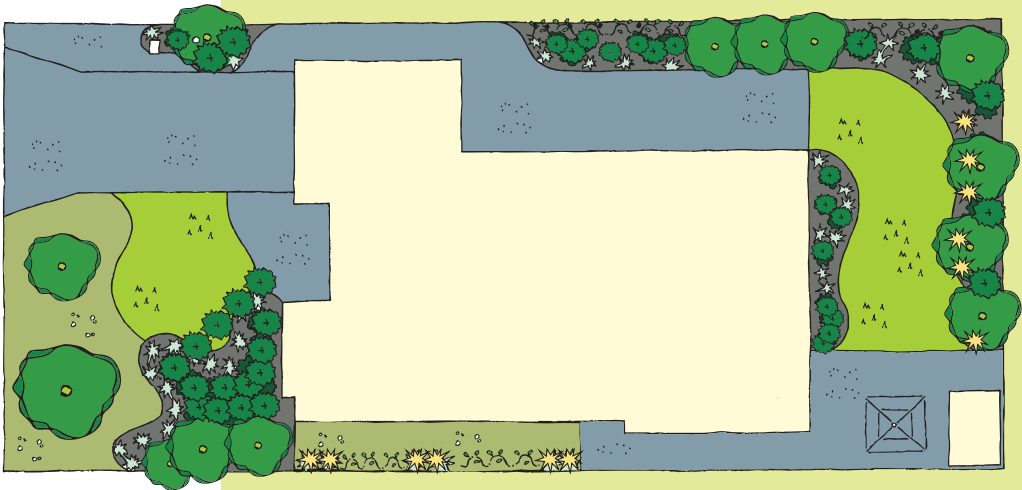
Landscape and planting design

Having considered all the factors that will affect your new plants, they will have a much better chance of survival. You may also wish to seek professional advice - horticulturalists, landscape designers and landscape architects have a wealth of experience in garden design. Check local business directories for professionals in your area.

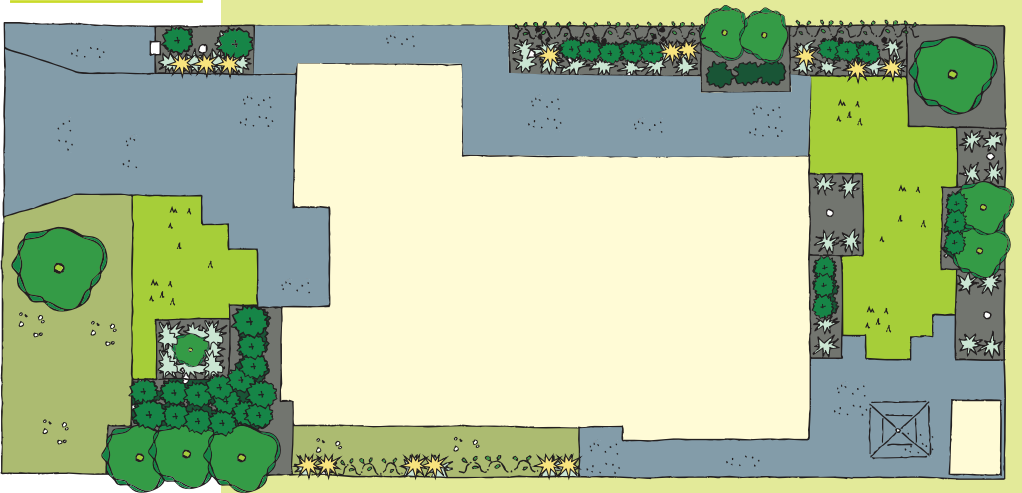


The final design

Curved design



Angular design



Icons

Trees and tall shrubs



- Chenille Honeymyrtle (*Melaleuca huegelii*)
- Illyarrie (*Eucalyptus erythrocorys*)
- Rottneest Island Tea Tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*)
- Coastal Banksia (*Banksia attenuata*)

Small - Medium shrubs



- Coastal Daisy (*Olearia axillaris*)
- Coastal Thryptomene (*Thryptomene baeckeacea*)
- Cockies Tongues (*Templetonia retusa*)
- Geraldton Rose (*Diplolaena grandiflora*)
- Spoon leaved Wattle (*Acacia spathulifolia*)

Ground covers and herbs



- Coastal Thryptomene (*Thryptomene baeckeacea*) (*prostrate form*),
- Ruby Saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa*)
- Coastal Pigface (*Carpobrotus virescens*)
- Blueberry Lilly (*Dianella revoluta*)

Grasses and sedges



- Knotted Club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*)
- *Lomandra maritima*
- Coastal Spinifex (*Spinifex longifolius*)

Climbers



- Old Man's Beard (*Clematis linearifolia*)

Lawn



Mulch



Gravel, rock mulch



Concrete, paving



Growing local coastal native plants

When to plant

The best time for planting is after the first winter rains, when the soil is still warm. The warmth encourages root growth and gives plants time to establish before cold winter nights arrive.

Watering

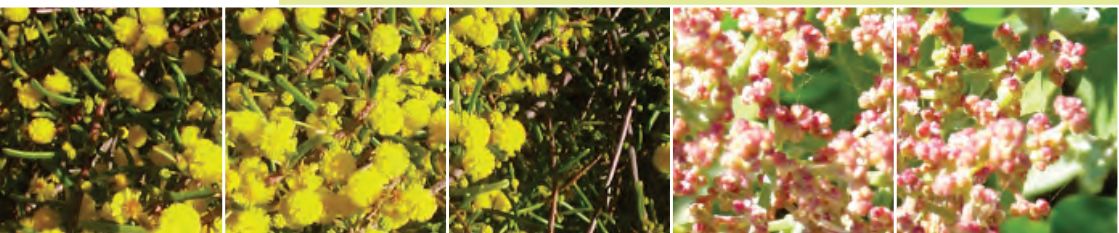
Keep an eye on your new plants throughout their first summer. They may need an occasional deep watering, however try not to water more than once a week. After their first summer they should be able to cope on their own or with very little water.

Your aim is to establish strong, deep root systems that are water-efficient and drought tolerant. Over-watering will leach nutrients from the soil and encourage excessive growth, reducing flowers, along with the life of the plant. Be mindful of current water restrictions and prescribed watering times.

Mulch and gravels

A layer of coarse mulch added to your garden can reduce evaporative water loss by more than 70 per cent. Organic mulch stabilises soil temperatures, which benefits root density, prevents weed growth and helps to promote good soil structure and productivity.

Apply 5 cm to 10 cm of mulch or gravel, creating a bowl shape around the plant to help retain water. To avoid plant disease, mulch should be kept away from plant stems.



Fertilising

Fertilisers are not generally needed for growing local native plants, and many are sensitive to the phosphorus found in most fertilisers. The addition of organic mulch to the soil will often provide all the nutrients native plants require. If you do decide to fertilise, read the fertiliser package and ensure you select a slow release fertiliser suitable for native plants. Encouraging rapid growth should be avoided, as this will result in 'leggy' plants which are weak and short-lived.

Pruning

Local native plants benefit from a light pruning after flowering.

Potted plants

Potted plants generally require a little more care than those planted into garden beds. It is advisable to allow plants to become dormant in summer, as they would normally, so keep watering to a minimum. Keep in mind also that some plants may need re-potting periodically, to prevent them from becoming root bound.

Sustainable landscaping

You can help your local environment by using sustainable and locally sourced materials and avoiding materials taken from natural systems such as moss rocks, river stones, fallen logs and red gum mulch.



Other local native plants

The following local native plants suit a variety of landscaping styles and can also be incorporated into your native garden. For more information on these plants see 'Useful resources' on page 34.

Climbers

Zygophyllum fruticosum

Grasses and sedges

Mesomelaena pseudostygia
Lomandra micrantha

Ground covers and herbs

Grey Saltbush (*Atriplex cinerea*)
Diplopeltis huegelii
Prickle Lily (*Acanthocarpus preissii*)
Running Postman or Scarlet Runner (*Kennedia prostrata*)
Scaevola thesioides
Striate-fruit Scaevola (*Scaevola porocarya*)



Small and medium shrubs

Berry Saltbush (*Rhagodia baccata*) south NAR only

Fringe Myrtle (*Calytrix fraseri*)

Coast Saltbush (*Atriplex isatidea*)

Scaevola globulifera

Scholtzia umbellifera

Grey Saltbush (*Atriplex cinerea*)

Hibbertia spicata

Trees and tall shrubs

Fremantle Mallee (*Eucalyptus foecunda*) south NAR only

Native Hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii*)

Summer-scented Wattle (*Acacia rostellifera*)

Basket Bush (*Spyridium globulosum*)

Pebble Bush (*Stylobasium spathulatum*)

Rottnest Island Pine (*Callitris preissii*)

Weeping Pittosporum (*Pittosporum phylliraeoides*)



Useful resources

Online

- In the Garden – www.watercorporation.com.au
- Dial Before You Dig – www.1100.com.au
- Florabase - <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>
- Sustainable Gardening Australia - www.sgaonline.org.au
- The Wildflower Society of Western Australia - <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers/>
- Weeds or Wildflowers - www.environmentalweedsactionnetwork.org.au
- Your local government's website
- Northern Agricultural Catchments Council - www.nacc.com.au
- NARvis (Northern Agricultural Region Vision) - www.narvis.com.au

Books

- *Coastal Gardens: A Planting Guide*, Rural Solutions SA and AMLR NRM Board.
- *Coastal Plants*, Rippey, E. and Rowland, B., (1995).
- *Coastal Plant Pocket Guide NAR WA*, Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (2010).
- *Creating a Water Wise Coastal Garden*, Water Corporation (2011).
- *Western Weeds: Second Edition*, Hussey, B.M.J., Keighery, G.J., Dodd, J., Lloyd, S.G. and Cousens, R.D. (1997).



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