

Wetland Garden

Bursting with life and constantly changing, wetland gardens make an interesting focal point in any backyard. Wetland gardens are not just for large properties, as frog ponds and dry creek beds have become popular features for small backyards. They too, will provide great habitat for frogs, reptiles, dragonflies and birds.

This garden displays plants that occur naturally in Redlands' wetland habitats in and around swamps, lakes, dams, creeks, rivers and tidal areas. They have adapted to thrive in moist soils and those that occur in tidal areas are able to cope with a certain amount of salt. These adaptations make them the perfect choice for waterlogged or flood prone areas of your property. The majority of wetland plants are hardy and versatile though, able to cope with long dry periods typical of our unpredictable climate. This makes them suitable for most garden situations, just needing to be watered during the hottest, dry periods.

Whether it is a natural, man-made, large or small wetland, plants are the key to creating a healthy habitat.

- Plant native rushes and sedges thickly around the perimeter of water bodies to deter cane toads. The plants form a natural barrier, as cane toads struggle to jump up and over thick vegetation;
- Plant trees and shrubs to provide shade over the water. Native fish, aquatic invertebrates and native water plants need cool, shaded water to thrive. Shade also reduces algae and weed growth;
- Use native water plants to keep the water healthy. They prevent erosion, trap harmful particles from runoff, absorb excess nutrients, aerate the water and provide food and nesting sites for wildlife;
- Native groundcovers and water are the perfect combination for attracting frogs to your garden.



Broad-leaved Paperbarks, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, are great for attracting all kinds of wildlife.



Egrets wade in shallow water searching for invertebrates, small fish and frogs.



Tip: Keep frog ponds free of mosquito larvae ('wigglers') by stocking native fish that feed on the larvae, but not frog eggs.

Species in the garden

	<p><i>Lomandra hystrix</i> Creek Mat Rush</p> <p>Tufting grass-like plant with prickly flower spikes. Extremely hardy, growing in any situation once established. Makes great habitat for frogs and birds and is excellent for stabilising soil where water flows.</p>		<p><i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i> Water Gum</p> <p>Scaly-barked tree to 10m with small, yellow flowers that grow in clusters. Occurs naturally along watercourses or near water.</p>
	<p><i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> Broad-leaved Paperbark</p> <p>Tree to 20m with distinct papery bark. Great for attracting wildlife. The flower brushes will attract birds with a nectar diet and the papery bark provides nesting materials. Oil extracted from leaves is used to treat cold symptoms.</p>		<p><i>Leptospermum brachyandrum</i> Weeping Tea-tree</p> <p>Nice weeping tea-tree to 4m with longer foliage than other local tea-trees and pale, flaky bark. Occurs on the edges of creeks and lakes, has white flowers and should prove quite hardy in a site with some sun and moisture.</p>
	<p><i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i> Snow In Summer</p> <p>Attractive, hardy tree with papery bark and white flowers. Grows up to 5m. Has become rare in the Redlands due to clearing of bushland.</p>		<p><i>Carex appressa</i> Tall Sedge</p> <p>Clumping sedge suited to areas regularly inundated with water. Great butterfly attracting plant, but has sharp leaves.</p>
	<p><i>Philydrum lanuginosum</i> Woolly Frogmouth</p> <p>An interesting plant that grows in still, shallow water on the edge of wetlands. Produces yellow flowers on spikes that are covered in white hairs all year round. A great plant for frog ponds and dams.</p>		<p><i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> Blue Tongue</p> <p>Ornamental shrub to 2m with beautiful pink flowers. Occurs naturally in freshwater wetland areas. Is hardy in the garden, but grows best with some watering. The fruit makes a tasty snack that will leave your mouth blue.</p>
	<p><i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> River She-oak</p> <p>Largest of the local She-oaks, growing to 20m. Grows alongside creeks, and is uncommon in the Redlands area.</p>		<p><i>Macaranga tanarius</i> Macaranga</p> <p>A fast growing tree to 8m in height. The large, round leaves provide excellent shade which helps prevent weed growth in revegetation areas. Hardy, but will thrive with more moisture.</p>
	<p><i>Melaleuca pachyphylla</i> Wallum Bottlebrush</p> <p>Popular shrub with brilliant red flower spikes for most of the year. Hardy, growing to 2m and responds well to pruning. It is highly attractive to nectar feeding birds.</p>		<p><i>Acmena smithii</i> Lilly-pilly</p> <p>Attractive tree to 10m, commonly found along creek lines in the Redlands. Small white flowers are followed by edible berries that vary from pink to mauve. Hardy, and responds well to pruning.</p>

Some other species to consider

Trees		Small Plants for Wetland Surrounds	
<p><i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> <i>Glochidion Sumatranum</i> <i>Casuarina glauca</i></p>	<p>Swamp Box Qld Blue Gum Cheese tree Swamp She-oak</p>	<p><i>Gahnia sieberiana</i> <i>Isolepis nodosa</i> <i>Juncus usitatus</i> <i>Crinum pedunculatum</i></p>	<p>Red Fruited Saw Sedge Knobbly Club-rush Common Rush River Lily</p>
Shrubs		Sedges and Rushes for Under Water	
<p><i>Banksia robur</i> <i>Melaleuca thymifolia</i> <i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i> <i>Melaleuca sieberi</i></p>	<p>Swamp Banksia Thyme Honeymyrtle Tea-tree Small-leaved Paperbark</p>	<p><i>Bauhmea articulata</i> <i>Lepironia articulata</i> <i>Cyperus exaltatus</i> <i>Philydrum lanuginosum</i></p>	<p>Jointed Twigrush Grey Rush Giant Sedge Woolly Frogmouth</p>