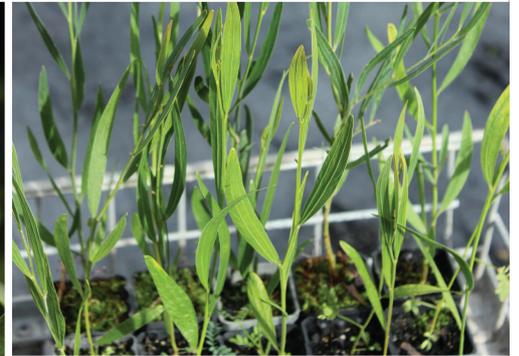


# Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph (above): John Gregurke

## Hop Wattle

*Acacia stricta*

### FAST FACTS

#### Shrub

Family:	Mimosaceae
	Wattle
Size:	3m H x 2m W
Position:	Lightly shaded
Soil:	Well watered
Flowers:	Pale yellow globules
Fruits:	Pods
Care:	Tip prune

**Hop Wattle** (*Acacia stricta*), is a fast growing Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area that makes a good windbreak under taller trees.

**Location:** It can grow into quite a large shrub – 3m high by 2m wide – over the next 5 years or more if given plenty of water, so be sure to allow room for growth. The Hop Wattle is fairly robust but prefers a slightly shaded, well watered position.

**Leaves:** Unusually for wattles, the narrow pale green leaves tend to be held upright.

**Flowers:** Hop Wattle flowers are a delicate yellow colour and form fluffy globular heads scattered amongst the leaves towards the end of each branch.

**Planting:** Hop Wattle will grow really well in your garden if planted within a few days of purchase in a hole not much larger than

the pot. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it. Make sure that the soil doesn't dry out too much over summer.

**Care:** Pruning isn't necessary, however the Hop Wattle will look better if given a light trim each year after the flowers have finished. A tip-prune taking off the flowering part of each stem will keep the plant more compact and encourage it to form a denser, more showy shrub next year.

**Propagation:** Hop Wattle grow well from seed collected over summer. The seed germinates best if you first crack the hard seed-coat by soaking it in a cup of freshly boiled water. Just pour on the hot water and let it sit until cool. Sprinkle the seed on some damp potting mix, cover with some more mix (a couple of millimetres) and keep it moist.

# Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



## Prickly Moses

### Acacia verticillata

#### FAST FACTS

##### Shrub

Family:	Mimosaceae
	Wattle
Size:	4m H x 4m W
Position:	Sunny to part shade
Soil:	Well watered
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Pods
Care:	Prune when young

**Prickly Moses** (*Acacia verticillata*) is an Australian native shrub from the Ballarat region that prefers to grow in low-lying damp areas.

**Location:** It can grow into quite a large spreading shrub (4m x 4m) if given plenty of water, so make sure you plant it in a space that will allow it to reach its full splendor over the next 5 years or more.

Prickly Moses likes a sunny, well watered position. You might want to plant it at the back of a large garden bed or away from areas where people may walk or play as the leaves are in fact quite prickly.

**Leaves:** The leaves of the Prickly Moses are short, needle-like spines.

**Flowers:** One of Australia's beautiful wattles, the flowers of the Prickly Moses are pale yellow, fluffy, elongated clusters

on the ends of every branch. It can be completely covered by them during spring.

**Planting:** Prickly Moses will grow really well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it. Make sure that the soil doesn't dry out too much over summer.

**Care:** You may need to check soil moisture during summer. Pruning in the first few years will help keep the Prickly Moses dense and promote lots of flowers.

**Propagation:** Prickly Moses will grow well from seed collected over summer. Soak the seeds in freshly boiled water for 15 minutes to crack the hard seed coat. Sprinkle the seed on damp potting mix, cover with a couple of millimetres of additional mix and keep moist.

# Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

## River Bottlebrush

### Callistemon sieberi

#### FAST FACTS

##### Shrub

Family:	Myrtaceae
	Myrtle
Size:	2m H x 2m W
Position:	Shaded
Soil:	Well watered
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Woody capsules
Care:	Prune

**River Bottlebrush** (*Callistemon sieberi*) is a narrow-leaved Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area that grows 1-2 metres tall.

**Location:** Plant in a shaded, naturally damp or well-watered spot amongst other plants with similar needs.

**Flowers:** River Bottlebrush flower over summer, forming a pale yellow 'bottlebrush' at the end of each branch.

**Attracts:** Several species of native butterfly are attracted to and feed off the copious nectar.

**Planting:** It will grow really well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it.

**Care:** When the flowers start to look a bit straggly towards the end of summer, give the Bottlebrush a prune, taking off about one third of the length of each branch. This will keep the shrub nice and compact and encourage it to develop more flowers next year.

Also, don't forget to keep the water supply up, especially over the summer months.

**Seed:** When you prune the Bottlebrush, you might like to leave some of the flower stems uncut for a few months until they form woody capsules on the branches. These can be collected and dried in a paper bag to release new seed.

**Propagation:** Sprinkle the seed on damp potting mix, cover lightly with some more mix and keep moist until the seedlings emerge.

# Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



## Hop Goodenia

*Goodenia ovata*

### FAST FACTS

#### Shrub

Family:	Goodeniaceae
	Fan Flower
Size:	1m H x 1m W
Position:	Shady
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Spring / Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

A bushy shrub growing up to 1m high and wide, **Hop Goodenia** (*Goodenia ovata*) is an Australian native shrub from the Ballarat region.

**Location:** Plant in a fairly shady, moist spot. Hop Goodenia look good as a group in a large garden bed, but it also looks fantastic as a feature in a garden bed amongst other plants.

**Leaves:** Leaves are a broad, oval shape and yellow-green in colour. On seedlings, leaves may appear a bit scrappy with yellowing and brown-red spotty markings.

**Flowers:** Hop Goodenia flowers for a long time over spring and summer, producing lots of gold flowers amongst the bright green leaves.

**Planting:** Hop Goodenia are quite tough and will grow really well in your garden if planted within a few days of purchase in a hole not much larger than the pot. Give it a good  $\frac{1}{2}$  bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

**Care:** Unless you prune the plant, its stems can become quite long and arching. Prune in late summer or autumn, taking off about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of its height. It will bounce back with lovely fresh growth within a few weeks.

**Propagation:** When you prune, cut some of the stems into 15cm lengths, insert the lower end deep into potting mix and keep moist for several months until new roots form and leaves begin to grow.

# Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



## Austral Indigo

*Indigofera australis*

### FAST FACTS

#### Shrub

Family:	Fabaceae
	Pea
Size:	1.5m H
Position:	Part shade
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Pods
Care:	Prune

An open-branched shrub to about 1.5m high, **Austral Indigo** (*Indigofera australis*) is an Australian native plant from the Ballarat area.

**Location:** Austral Indigo prefers part shade near the protection of large trees as it can be killed by frost if out in the open.

**Flowers:** It produces beautiful purple pea flowers for a few weeks in spring which contrast nicely with its red-brown stems and blue-grey leaves.

**Attracts:** If you look carefully amongst the flowers and foliage, you may see numerous small native butterflies – the Grass Blue and the Pea Blue.

**Planting:** Austral Indigo will grow really well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of

purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that. Because it is a large open shrub, it will look best planted towards the back of a garden bed.

**Care:** Prune the Austral Indigo in late spring or early summer when it has finished flowering to keep it relatively compact and bushy. It's best to prune Austral Indigo quite hard, taking off about ½ to ⅔ of the plant's height.

**Propagation:** Collect the seeds from the pods in summer before they are released. Soak the seeds in freshly boiled water for 15 minutes. Place the seed a couple of millimetres below the surface of damp potting mix.

# Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

## Prickly Tea-tree

### Leptospermum continentale

#### FAST FACTS

##### Shrub

Family:	Myrtaceae
	Myrtle
Size:	1.5m H x 50cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Woody capsules
Care:	Light prune

An Australian native shrub from the Ballarat area, **Prickly Tea-tree** (*Leptospermum continentale*) can be quite variable in size depending on how much water it receives.

**Location / Leaves:** Prickly Tea-tree prefers a sunny position and is best planted in the middle of a garden bed or where people won't brush up against it as the small narrow leaves are quite sharp at the tip.

**Flowers:** It flowers during spring and can be quite spectacular, with branches almost entirely covered in bright white flowers.

**Fruit:** The flowers form attractive disc-shaped globular woody fruit that ripen from green to brown over summer. Ripe fruit will remain on the stems for several years.

**Care:** A light prune after flowering will keep the plant dense and bushy. It will also have more flowers next year. You can leave it

unpruned – it will tend to grow taller but slightly straggly.

**Planting:** Prickly Tea-tree is quite tough and will grow really well if planted within a few days of purchase in a hole not much larger than the pot. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

**Propagation:** Remove a few of the older dried woody fruit and place in a paper bag somewhere warm. Tiny elongated “dusty” seeds will emerge from the capsules. Sprinkle them onto the top of a small pot and dust with a light coat of fine soil. Keep them well watered and transplant into larger pots when they are a couple of centimetres tall. The young plants can be transferred into the ground when about 10cm high.

# Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

## Tree Everlasting

### Ozothamnus ferrugineus

#### FAST FACTS

##### Shrub

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	2m H x 1m W
Position:	Shady
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

A single-trunked shrub growing about 1m wide and 2–3m high, **Tree Everlasting** (*Ozothamnus ferrugineus*) is an Australian native plant from the Ballarat area.

**Location:** Plant Tree Everlasting in a shady spot. With its bare lower trunk and height, it will look better towards the back of a garden bed with smaller plants around the base.

**Leaves:** The leaves are a bright green, multi-sized and much longer than wide, but all the same proportions. The leaf margin is wavy and there is a slight in-rolling of the edges.

**Flowers:** Tree Everlasting develops large clumps of tiny creamy flowers in late spring which stay on for most of summer, looking a little like cauliflowers.

**Planting:** Tree Everlasting is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted within a few days of purchase. It likes a shady spot in a hole not much larger than the pot. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

**Care:** It will look its best if given a light prune after the flowers start to look old and dull towards mid or late summer. It will then stay bushy and dense and have more flowers next year. If you prefer, you can leave it unpruned. It will then tend to grow taller, but slightly straggly.

**Seed:** Thousands of dry papery fruit develop from the flowers. The fluffy seed can be collected towards the end of summer when you prune.