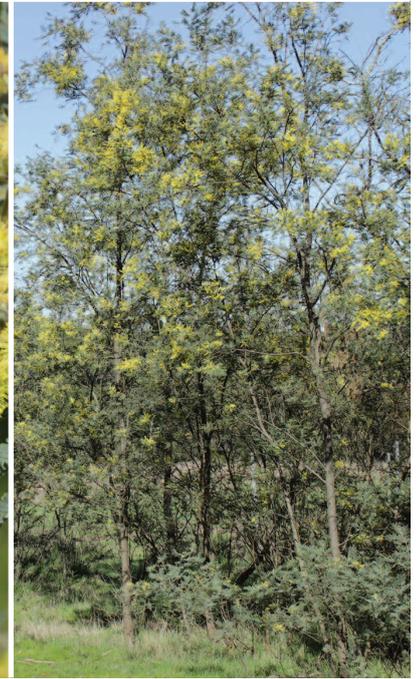


Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Silver Wattle

Acacia dealbata

FAST FACTS

Tree	
Family:	Mimosaceae Wattle
Size:	6m H x 5m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Any
Flowers:	Late winter
Fruits:	Purple-brown pods
Care:	Low maintenance

Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) is an Australian native tree from the Ballarat area.

Location: It likes a sunny position and can grow into quite a large tree if given plenty of water, so make sure you locate it where it will have the room to grow over the next 10 years or more. The Silver Wattle will remain much smaller if planted in a drier spot.

Leaves: The leaves of the Silver Wattle look beautiful all year round. They are finely divided, soft and a silky blue-grey in colour.

Flowers: Regarded as one of Australia's most beautiful wattles, its flowers occur in bright yellow fluffy balls in clusters on the end of every branch. Silver Wattle can be completely covered in flowers during late winter and early spring. The flowers are followed by attractive purple-brown pods over late spring and early summer.

Attracts: Silver Wattle are a good food source for Sugar Gliders.

Planting: Silver Wattle will grow well if planted in a hole not much larger than its 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.

Care: Silver Wattle don't need to be pruned and are fairly low maintenance.

Propagation: Silver Wattle grow well from seed collected over summer. More of the seed will germinate if you first crack the hard seed-coat by soaking them for a few minutes in a cup of freshly boiled water. Just pour on the hot water and let them sit until cool. Sprinkle the seed on the surface of a pot, cover with a couple of millimetres of soil, keep it moist and then watch them grow!

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Jenny Ryle

Photographs (above): Roger Thomas

Black She-oak

Allocasuarina littoralis

FAST FACTS

Tree	
Family:	Casuarinaceae She-oak
Size:	6m H x 3m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Late spring
Fruits:	Cones (Females)
Care:	Low maintenance

Sometimes mistaken for a pine tree, the **Black She-oak** (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) is an Australian native from the Ballarat area that will eventually grow into a graceful, upright tree with rough, dark bark and fine, soft, dark green 'foliage'.

Location: Black She-oaks like a sunny position. Allow room for it to fully grow.

Leaves: The fine, delicate 'foliage' provides light shade over summer and produces a gentle whispering sound in a breeze. The true leaves are minute scales surrounding each slender green stem.

Flowers: Flowers are inconspicuous, but in late spring you will notice an attractive fine dusting of tiny rust-coloured flowers amongst the dark green foliage.

Planting: Black She-oaks are quite tough and will grow 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.

Seed: If you have a female tree, after a few years it will produce lots of small woody cones scattered throughout the older branches. The cones are 1-2cm long and covered in rounded bumps which eventually spilt open to release a fine seed.

Propagation: If you want to grow your own Black She-oaks, dry cones can be picked and placed in a paper bag and left indoors for a few days. The tiny seed will be released and can be sprinkled on moist potting mix.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas



Photographs (above): John Gregurke

Drooping She-oak

Allocasuarina verticillata

FAST FACTS

Tree

Family:	Casuarinaceae
	She-oak
Size:	8m H x 4m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Late Autumn
Fruits:	Cones (Females)
Care:	Low maintenance

An Australian native tree from the Ballarat area, **Drooping She-oak** (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) will grow into a somewhat rounded tree with rough dark bark and drooping, grey-green, needle-like 'leaves'.

Location: Plant in a sunny, well drained spot with room to for the tree to grow.

Leaves: Drooping She-oaks have fine, delicate 'foliage' that provides light shade over summer and produces a gentle whispering sound in a breeze. If you look closely, you will see that the true leaves are tiny scales arranged in circles around the slender drooping green stems.

Flowers: The flowers are inconspicuous but from late autumn through to early summer you will notice an attractive fine dusting of golden flowers amongst the grey-green foliage.

Planting: Drooping She-oaks are quite tough and will grow 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.

Seed: If you have a female tree, after a few years it will produce lots of small woody cones scattered throughout the older branches. The rough surfaced, globular cones are 3-5cm long and will eventually open to release the fine seed.

Propagation: Dry cones can be picked and placed in a paper bag and left indoors for a few days. The tiny seed will be released and can be sprinkled on moist potting mix.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Silver Banksia

Banksia marginata

FAST FACTS

Tree	
Family:	Proteaceae
	Protea
Size:	5m H x 2m W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained, dry
Flowers:	Spring – Summer
Fruits:	“Banksia Men”
Care:	Not too much water

Attractive, small and neat, **Silver Banksia** (*Banksia marginata*) is an Australian native tree from the Ballarat area that is a favourite with birds and gardeners alike.

Location: Silver Banksia can grow quite tall (5-6m) but don't have wide spreading branches, so a sunny position in a narrow spot or a small garden is perfect.

Leaves: Leaves are dark green with silver-grey undersides and toothed edges.

Flowers: Every year, over spring and well into summer, pale yellow flowers blossom amongst the foliage. They also make great cut flowers.

Bark: As the tree matures, it develops a gnarled, dark grey trunk which will add some great character to your garden.

Attracts: Although the flowers are not particularly showy, the nectar attracts butterflies and native birds, including Ballarat's many small Honeyeaters. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos enjoy feasting on the seeds from the 'banksia men' fruit.

Planting: Silver Banksia 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 ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it. It should be fine after that.

Care: Once settled in, Silver Banksia actually don't like too much water so plant them somewhere where fussy plants won't survive.

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: © M. Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Photograph: © M. Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Golden Spray

Viminaria juncea

FAST FACTS

Small Tree / Large Shrub

Family:	Fabaceae
	Pea
Size:	4m H x 1.5m W
Position:	Sunny, well watered
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Late spring
Fruits:	Pods
Care:	Keep soil moist

Fast growing, **Golden Spray** (*Viminaria juncea*) is an Australian native plant that will become a beautiful small tree within a few years if given plenty of water. Indigenous to parts of western and coastal Victoria, this plant will make a wonderful addition to your garden.

Location: Golden Spray has long narrow hanging branches and will grow about 1.5m wide and between 4-5m high – so planting in a narrow space is fine. It likes a sunny, well watered, position.

Flowers: Golden Spray has fine, green weeping branches, however long sprays of bright yellow pea-shaped flowers that form in late spring and early summer are its best feature.

Planting: Golden Spray 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: Make sure that the soil doesn't dry out over summer because Golden Spray prefers to grow in damp areas in the bush.

Seed: Golden Spray grows well from seed collected from the pods over summer.

Propagation: Golden Spray grow well from seed collected over summer. More of the seed will germinate if you first crack the hard seed-coat by soaking them for a few minutes in a cup of freshly boiled water. Just pour on the hot water and let them sit until cool. Sprinkle the seed on the surface of a pot, cover with a couple of millimetres of soil, and keep it moist.