

Coastal Gardening

Gardening successfully in coastal areas is possible if you select the right plants for the local soil conditions. It is important to respect the atmosphere of the natural coastline and landscape to appropriately manage the sandy soil and prevent erosion.

If you are planting a new coastal garden try to retain indigenous vegetation and beware of plants that need lots of water and/or heavy soils. To help your garden blend into the natural environment take an interest in the native plants growing in your area of the coast but beware as some are classified as weeds. There is a very informative booklet available to assist you in plant selection.

Sustainable Gardening Booklet

The Sustainable Gardening Booklet is a joint project between Wellington Shire Council and East Gippsland Shire Council.

The booklet recommends plants to assist gardeners in making sustainable, appropriate choices to reduce the use of weeds in home gardens which have the tendency to escape garden boundaries. Indigenous plants to the Shire region are suggested first. When an indigenous option is not available, plants native to Victoria have been listed. Plants in this booklet are largely selected based on their non-invasive characteristics and commercial availability for the home gardener.

This booklet is available free from the Wellington Shire Council or the Golden Beach Community Nursery.

More Plant Selection Help

For a comprehensive list of Native plants including grasses, shrubs and trees that will tolerate salt laden winds they are listed on this site. Victorian Resources Online.

http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/sip_coastal_salt_spray

The Australian Native Plant society has valuable information available. Go to <http://anpsa.org.au/index.html>

Identifying and Controlling weeds

Help with weed identification and control can be found at this website- http://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/page/page.asp?page_id=1283

Coastcare Link

[Coast Action/Coastcare](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/coasts-and-marine/coasts/coastcare) Community volunteer groups help to maintain our marine and coastal environment, through activities such as revegetating coastal areas, building boardwalks, fencing, building tracks, monitoring native shorebirds and animals, presenting education and awareness raising sessions, plantings, landscaping coastal areas and protecting cultural sites <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/coasts-and-marine/coasts/coastcare>

Conservation Group

Gippsland Plains Conservation Management Network (GPCMN) The Gippsland Plains CMN works to protect scattered remnant vegetation across private and public land on the Gippsland Plains. It is located in the West Gippsland and East Gippsland catchment areas. It has a current program to protect scattered trees involves assessing the trees for wildlife presence and providing subsidies for fencing and regeneration. It was successful in securing a Caring for Our Country federal grant to carry out on ground works. The CMN has undertaken a number of management trials with new and innovative techniques to restore woodland ecosystems. A regular newsletter is circulated sharing new ideas and techniques between landholders.

<http://gippslandplainscmn.org.au/site>

Being Eco Friendly

Worm Farms, Compost Bins, and recycling appropriately can help reduce the amount of waste materials going to landfill. There are many websites that will provide information.

If you are planning to build a new home you may decide to incorporate a number of environmentally friendly building options in your design. For information on Commercial Waste Systems suitable for domestic dwellings go to

<http://www.wormfarm.com.au/> Worm Farm Waste Systems