



## AUSTRALIAN FLOWERING PLANTS

BY JULIE LAKE

Look around your neighbourhood at any time of year and you'll see one of Australia's native plants in glorious flower, adding a splash of colour to the landscape. It might be the bronze flower spikes of the popular grevillea 'Honey Gem', the vivid red bottlebrush of a weeping callistemon, the subtle, half-hidden pink blooms of Pink Euodia or the great balls of yellow carried by the Golden Penda.



These trees and shrubs, and many others, have originated in the bush or the rainforest and have been improved through breeding to give us the delightful flowering specimens which grace our gardens today. And there are smaller plants too such as paper daisies and kangaroo paws which can be used in flower beds, borders and rockeries.

One of the best things about these flowering plants is that they attract birds and butterflies to the garden, as well as the beneficial insects which prey on insect pests. A garden full of Australian flowering trees, shrubs and perennials is not just a pretty sight but extends the bush into the backyard, offering food and sanctuary to wild creatures whose natural habitat is shrinking fast.

### CULTIVATION

Here is a list of flowering native trees, shrubs and other plants for your garden - a small selection of the many which are available. Some may only be available from specialist native plant nurseries.

#### GREVILLEAS

- 'Robyn Gordon' - shrub - deep pinkish red flowers. An old favourite.
- 'Scarlet Sprite' - shrub - red flowers
- 'Billy Bonkers' - shrub to 1.5 m - soft grey-green foliage with flowers similar to 'Robyn Gordon'
- 'Honey Gem' - shrub or small tree - bronze flowers
- 'Honey Wonder' - like 'Honey Gem' but with variegated foliage
- 'Moonlight' - small tree with silvery-white flowers

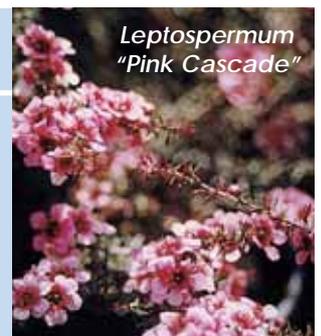
(There are many other shrub/small tree grevilleas so check out the garden centres to see what's best for that special spot in your garden)



Grevillea  
'Honey Gem'

#### LEPTOSPERMUMS

These range from small trees to small, spreading shrubs. 'Cardwell' is a golden oldie with white flowers, the pink-flowering 'Pink Cascade' has an almost prostrate habit and new kids on the block are members of the Aussie Blossom collection: 'Naoko' (deep reddish pink), 'Emily Nao' (pink), 'Martin' (pinkish-tinged white), 'Joy' (shell pink) and 'Geoffrey' (white).



Leptospermum  
'Pink Cascade'





## CALLISTEMONS

The familiar '*bottlebrush*' comes in large tree or shrub form and there is also a popular weeping (*C. viminalis*) species. Flower colours are red, pink, mauve yellow and white and there are many different varieties available.



## LILLY PILLIES

Most syzygiums, acmenas and waterhouseas have colourful new foliage as well as flowers. The more spectacular flowering types include:

*Syzygium wilsonii* (with red or pink flowers)  
*Syzygium fibrosum* (apricot flower)



## OTHER TREES AND SHRUBS

**Golden Penda 'Fairhill Gold' (*Xanthostemon chrysanthus*)** - to about 3 m. Bushy. Big yellow flowers.

**Lemon myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*)** - masses of cream-coloured flowers and lemon-scented foliage

**Pink Myrtle (*Archirhodomyrtus beckleri*)** - lots of white to pale pink flowers

***Elaeocarpus 'Prima Donna'*** - pink flowers

***Gardenia scabrella*** - perfumed white flowers)

**Flowering gums - 'Summer Red'** and pink-flowering '**Summer Beauty'** can be grown as small trees or large shrubs and are spectacularly beautiful when in flower.

***Pink Euodia (Melicope elleryana)*** - mauvish pink flowers born inside the foliage

***Ivory Curl Tree (Buckinghamia celsissima)*** - shrub or small tree with masses of ivory-coloured flowers. Popular street tree.

***Melastoma affine*** - small shrub with pink, tibouchina-like flowers

***Waxflower (Chamelaucium uncinatum)*** - tall shrub (can be pruned) with pink, white or mauve flowers.

***Graptophyllum ilicifolium* and *Graptophyllum exelsum*** (red flowers)





## SMALL FLOWERING PLANTS

*Dianella caerulea* - reedlike plant with mauve-blue flowers and berries. Good for poolside.

*Paper daisies (Bracteantha bracteata)* - yellow or white flowers. Good for rockeries.

*Brachyscome daisies* - dainty flowers and an excellent groundcover

*Hardenbergia 'Bushy Blue'* and *'Winter White'*

*Kangaroo Paws* - a range of colours

*Grevillea 'Mt Tamboritha'* - a flowering groundcover

*Scaevola* - low growing plant with blue or mauve flowers



*Brachyscome 'City Lights'*



*Kangaroo Paws - mixed colours*