This guide aims to assist people to select suitable indigenous plants for bushland rehabilitation, revegetation or landscaping throughout the Shire.

Rehabilitation of degraded native vegetation:
- helps protect biodiversity.
- reverses environmental decline.
- retains the unique peninsula landscape.

All native vegetation has value. Council asks that existing native vegetation is retained and protected on your land and adjoining areas. Removal of native vegetation requires a Council planning permit.

While replanting is a very effective method of restoring degraded areas, it cannot replace the value or diversity of naturally occurring native vegetation.

Where remnant native vegetation has been removed or is highly degraded, revegetation may be used to:
- replace habitat for native animals.
- connect existing areas of native vegetation.
- control erosion and improve water quality in your catchment.
- reduce the effects of salinity.
- help control weeds.

The use of indigenous plants for landscaping assists in:
- reducing garden water usage.
- providing opportunities for native fauna.
- maintaining peninsula landscapes.

Indigenous plants have been used (left) to rehabilitate cleared farmland.

Once established, these plants will replace lost native ground cover and canopy trees.

GUIDE TO REVEGETATION AND LANDSCAPING WITH INDIGENOUS PLANTS

Step 1 Assess the site
- Where is the site e.g. on a floodplain, exposed to coastal conditions, on a hill, next to a bushland reserve or corridor?
- What size is your site?
- Are there existing indigenous or introduced plants?
- What are the soil conditions?
- Identify threats e.g. weeds, stock, erosion.

Step 2 Manage threats / order plants
- Manage threats in order of priority.
- Determine planting density and ratio of trees, shrubs and ground covers. Nursery staff or ecological consultants may assist you with this.
- Make a selection of species from the list on the back according to the EVC you are in.
- Allow 8–12 months for your order. 45mm tube stock is recommended.

Step 3 Prepare your planting site
- Provide ongoing weed control.
- Avoid disturbing or importing soil.
- Retain natural wetland depressions.
- Encourage regeneration of indigenous plants.

Nepean Coastal Alkaline Scrub

Step 4 Plant
- Avoid planting during periods of prolonged weather extremes.
- Make sure soil in tubestock and ground is wet prior to planting.
- Water plants until established but make sure not to over water.
- Space plants to allow for growth.
- Use tree guards to protect plants from rabbits, herbicide overspray or other threats where required.
- Fertiliser is not required.

LOSS OF NATIVE VEGETATION

Over 90% of naturally occurring native vegetation has been cleared on the Mornington peninsula. Large scale removal of native vegetation has led to almost all EVCs on the peninsula today being classified as rare or threatened.

Reserves with examples of good quality native vegetation in this region include:

- Tyrone Bushland Reserve
- Mornington Peninsula National Park

What is an Ecological Vegetation Class?

An Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) is a mapping unit created from the classification of plant associations across Victoria.

EVCs are the result of an interaction of ecological processes and physical conditions.
For example, a well drained area will provide conditions suitable for some plants over others, resulting in a different vegetation class to wetter areas. However, interactions are based on a number of factors including:
- soil type
- topography
- past disturbance such as fire *and*
- vicinity to the coast.

The most widespread Ecological Vegetation Class in the Nepean region is Coastal Alkaline Scrub (left).

Remnants of one of the largest and only alkaline wetland systems on the peninsula is also found in this region near Boneo.

Further Information

Flora of Melbourne - Australian Plant Society 2003
Native Trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia - Costermans 2001
Foothills to Foreshore - Strickland 2003
Mornington Peninsula region local native (indigenous) plant nursery directory - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Wild Plants of Victoria CD Rom - Viridans 2004
Reports and Maps, Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) and Sites of Biodiversity Significance (Biosites) Port Phillip and Westernport Region CD Rom - Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002

www.mornpen.vic.gov.au
www.dse.vic.gov.au
www.greeningaustralia.org.au
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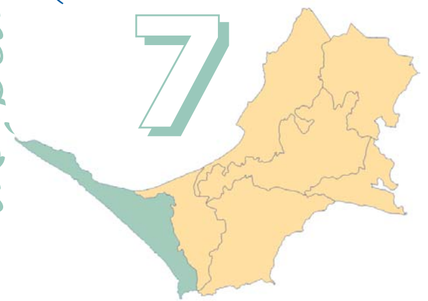
Revegetation & Landscaping
with Indigenous Plants

Mornington Peninsula
Nepean region



MORNINGTON PENINSULA Shire

COMMITTED TO A SUSTAINABLE PENINSULA