

Growing a sustainable garden

Peet Limited is committed to creating sustainable communities and encourages residents to take a similar approach when landscaping their gardens.

Grow native

Growing a variety of native trees and shrubs can benefit your garden in a number of ways. Native plants are well adapted to local conditions, thriving naturally and requiring less water. They bring vibrant colours and textures to your garden while, at the same time, protecting the environment. Indigenous trees and shrubs also provide an important source of food for local wildlife, encouraging birds, insects and other species to visit your backyard.

A number of native trees and shrubs are suited to the local environment including:

White box (*eucalyptus albens*) – an upright tree with a dense canopy, bluish foliage and striking cream flowers from February to June.

Creeping monkey flower (*mimulus repens*) – a spreading perennial herb with mauve flowers with yellow centres in spring and autumn.

Hop goodenia (*goodenia ovata*) – a low lying open shrub with yellow flowers from March to May.

Cushion bush (*leucophyta brownie*) – a rounded shrub with white/silver foliage and sweet smelling yellow flowers from September to December.



Water saving tips for your garden

By planting native trees and shrubs and following the tips below, you can reduce your garden's water consumption by up to 40%!

- Group plants with similar water needs in specific areas. Use taller, hardier plants to protect smaller ones and use drought resistant plants to reduce watering needs.
- Good soil holds water better than poor quality soil so it's important to prepare soil before planting with organic material and water-saving granules.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch! A good layer of mulch is a fantastic water saver as it reduces evaporation, discourages weed growth, prevents erosion and evens out soil temperature variations.
- Water wisely – it's best to water in the early morning or late evening when it is cooler. Make sure you stick to local watering restrictions or rosters.
- Check for leaks or problems with your irrigation system, and adjust requirements according to seasonal needs.

Did you know ...

- The term 'native plant' refers to any plant that occurs and grows naturally in a specific region or locality.
- More than 20,000 native plant species have been identified in Australia.
- The Common Heath, *epacris impressa*, is the State flower of Victoria.