

Why a Native Garden

Native plants which occur naturally in our area are best adapted to local conditions such as soil and climate. With proper planting and care they should require less maintenance than most exotics.

Apart from looking good a native garden greatly benefits the environment. Plants and animals co-exist, each relying on the other for survival, so it is important that your garden attracts a broad range of birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Ku-ring-gai Council's *Fauna Friends Starter Packs* consist of local plants which are known to attract birds, lizards, frogs, insects and butterflies. We recommend that you supplement the plants in the *Fauna Friends Starter Pack* with a variety of local native plants. This brochure lists some suggestions.

So, get planting and enjoy your garden's increased diversity!



Hints for native gardens:

- Mulching your garden discourages weed growth and retains water. Mulch with leaf litter or prunings.
- Encourage wildlife into your garden by providing a range of shelters. These could include hollow logs, overhanging flat rocks, dense shrubs and nesting boxes.
- Don't use pesticides or snail bait. As well as killing the insects, bees, lizards, frogs and birds which are beneficial to your garden, they are passed up the food chain.
- Cutting off spent flowers from a young plant will encourage bushier growth.
- We recommend limited use of a slow release fertiliser. Frequent use and regular fertilisers help to feed weeds.
- Remember that your plant will grow! Select plants that are suitable to the space available.

Learn more:

Flora for Fauna – www.floraforfauna.com

Australian Reptile Park – www.reptilepark.com.au

Australian Museum – www.amonline.net.au/research

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators – www.aabr.org.au

WildThings – www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/wildthings

***Fauna Friends Starter Packs* are available for purchase from Ku-ring-gai Council Nursery
430 Mona Vale Rd, St Ives.
Open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri. Tel: 9424 0376**

Contact Ku-ring-gai Council

818 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072
Locked Bag 1056, Pymble NSW 2073

T: 02 9424 0000

F: 02 9424 0001

E: kmc@kmc.nsw.gov.au

www.kmc.nsw.gov.au



Ku-ring-gai Council

Growing native plants to attract lizards



Eastern Water Dragon
PHOTO: R. GLEESON



Environmental Levy
Ku-ring-gai Council

Lizards and the environment

- Some lizards commonly found in Ku-ring-gai gardens include geckos, bluetongue lizards and other skinks.
- Lizards help control the populations of snails, slugs and other plant eating insects. Many lizards also eat plant matter including leaves, berries, fruits and flowers.
- Lizards use the sun to gain body warmth. It is recommended that some areas of your garden are exposed to full sun.
- Other garden features such as ponds, hollow logs, rockeries and pipes are ideal for housing lizards.
- Look out for bluetongue lizards when mowing the lawn. They are not easily seen in long grass and are slow movers.

Introducing bluetongue lizards

If you would like to see more lizards in your garden, Council can assist by introducing bluetongue lizards, from its own licensed breeding program, into your garden. Join Council's **WildThings** program for a range of wildlife related activities. For more information please visit www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/wildthings



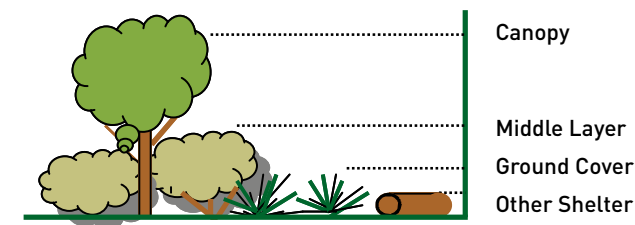
Bluetongue lizard
PHOTO: P. CLARKE

How plants attract wildlife

- Plants provide lizards with shelter from hungry predators and the elements. Rocks, leaves, rough bark and dense groundcover plants make the best hiding places.
- Some plants provide food for lizards while others assist in providing a food source by attracting other species which are part of a lizard's diet.

Plan your garden

Garden structure is important when encouraging wildlife into your backyard. Trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses of different heights provide the necessary food, shelter and nesting sites for a range of animals.



Plants which attract lizards

GROUND COVERS	Scurvy Weed Kidney Weed Knobby Club-rush Maidenhair Fern	<i>Commelina cyanea</i> <i>Dichondra repens</i> <i>Isolepis nodosa</i> <i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>	Groundcover plants provide shelter for lizards and frogs.
GRASSES/ RUSHES/ LILIES	Kangaroo Grass Wallaby Grass Tussock Grass Weeping Grass Flax Lily Rushes Spiny Headed Mat Rush	<i>Themeda australis</i> <i>Austrodanthonia tenuior</i> <i>Poa labillardieri</i> <i>Microlaena stipoides</i> <i>Dianella</i> spp <i>Juncus</i> spp <i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Grasses, rushes and lilies provide shelter and habitat for a number of small lizards and also attract butterflies and other insects.
CLIMBERS	Common Appleberry Native Sarsaparilla Old Mans Beard	<i>Billardiera scandens</i> <i>Smilax glyciphylla</i> <i>Clematis aristata</i>	Climbers provide shelter and attract insects which are another food source. Skinks will also eat the soft fruit of the Appleberry.
FERNS	Gristle Fern Rasp Fern	<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i> <i>Doodia aspera</i>	Dense ferns create shelter for lizards and may be shared by frogs and small birds.
SHRUBS	Tick Bush Tea Tree	<i>Kunzea ambigua</i> <i>Leptospermum</i> spp	These shrubs provide shelter and camouflage.
TREES	Blueberry Ash Rough-barked Apple Ironbark	<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i> <i>Angophora floribunda</i> <i>Eucalyptus paniculata</i>	The rough bark of these trees provides protection and camouflage for small lizards. Blue-tongue lizards will eat the fallen ripe fruit of Blueberry Ash.