

Riverine and Alluvial

LOCATIONS:

BILLINUDGEL, CHINBIBLE, DURRUMBUL, EWINGSDALE, KINGS CREEK, LEFT BANK ROAD, MAIN ARM, THE POCKET, MULLUMBIMBY, MYOCUM, OCEAN SHORES, SKINNERS SHOOT, WEST TYAGARAH, WILSONS CREEK ROAD (LOWER), YELGUN

The riparian zones and alluvial plains of Byron Shire are some of the most altered and disturbed areas of the north coast. Prior to development they supported a rich mosaic of plant alliances. Remnants of majestic eucalypt-based forest still exist in drier areas. Paperbark tea tree forest, swamp oak communities and sedge-lands thrive in areas of wetlands, and, nearer the estuary, communities of mangroves and other salt tolerant plants harbour exceptional biodiversity. All of these species, (except mangroves, which require

brackish or salt water) can still flourish near dams, soaks or in gardens on the riverine plains.

By choosing from the plant communities native to the riparian and alluvial plains of Byron Shire, you can make your property part of a region-wide wildlife corridor. Doing this, you will invite an incredible diversity of flora and fauna into your backyard. Planting in swathes, to slow runoff and catch silt, will help prevent erosion that in turn helps maintain the health of the whole length of the waterway,

encouraging the movement of all life forms that rely on the rivers and floodplains for their survival.



Port Jackson Fig
Illustration: Andy Erskine

WILDLIFE:

ECHIDNA, POSSUM, WATER DRAGON, PLATYPUS, FLYING FOX, INSECTIVOROUS BAT, SWAMP WALLABY, VARIOUS NATIVE FROGS AND FISH, AND A WIDE VARIETY OF BIRDS INCLUDING THE PACIFIC BAZZA



Green Tree Frog
Photo: Rainer Hartlieb



Echidna
Photo: Deborah Pearce



Pacific Baza
Photo: Deborah Pearce



CREATING A CREEK-SIDE RAINFOREST GARDEN

SOIL DESCRIPTION:

From gravels near the headwaters to fine clays near the estuary and all the gradations of particle size in between

Many gardens border creeks, streams and ephemeral watercourses. By recreating the structure of the natural vegetation communities with trees for canopy cover, under-planted with shrubs, ferns and sedges, it is possible to create your own patch of riparian rainforest.

Plant tussocky Lomandras mixed with the beautiful Crinum Lilies to protect the creek sides from erosion. Interplant with shrubs such as Native Mulberry, a butterfly host and Velvet Leaf whose berries attract small birds, interspersed with local riparian tree species such as Weeping Lilly Pilly and Creek Sandpaper Fig. Finish off with a sward of native groundcovers such as Basket Grass and Native Commelina, which can both be mown to help sieve sediments from runoff before it hits the creek. No rainforest garden is

Coopers Creek,
Photo: Alison Ratcliffe

complete without a vine or two trained along fences and pergolas to enjoy their showy flowers. Mulch is essential as it mimics the original forest's nutrient processing, keeps the soil moist, and inhibits the growth of weeds.

EXAMPLES: From Federation Bridge along Brunswick Terrace to the footbridge at the corner of Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby

CREATING AN ALLUVIAL PLAINS GARDEN

SOIL DESCRIPTION:

Silt-based, usually dark grey clays, tendency to crack if allowed to dry out.

Depending on their access to moisture, these lands once supported a variety of forests.

Drier ground: The Eucalypt species (e.g. *E. tereticornis*) that once dominated these areas are potentially very large trees. Due to bushfire constraints and the danger of falling branches these species are not safe to plant near buildings. However there are hundreds of other plants to choose from including: Black She-Oak,

Paperbark,
Photo: Byron Shire Council

which when mature will attract the Black Cockatoo; Kangaroo Grass and Paper Daisies which are low growing groundcovers, whilst Blue Tongue, Breynia and Orange Thorn are all mid-sized shrubs and scramblers. Diligent weeding of exotic species may even revive one or two ground orchids.

Wet or boggy ground: A Paperbark Tea Tree forest will flourish where the ground water is close to the surface or the ground is frequently inundated. Plant species consist of River Oaks and Buttonwood as well as Weeping Bottlebrush and Paperbark Tea Trees. Poorly drained soils support a large variety of sedges, rushes and ferns as well as such beauties as Sundews, Karamat and Violets.





Everlasting or Paper Daisy

Bright yellow flowers, butterfly host plant

1



Bungwall (Fern)

Swampy, near paperbarks, creeping rhizomes

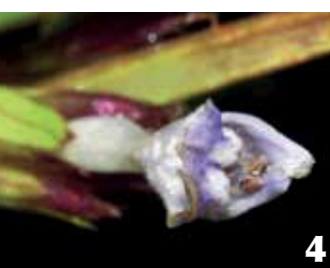
2



Kangaroo Grass

Flower spikes; butterfly host

3



Karamat

Easily propagated; flowers blue, blue-banded bees, harvester ants, butterfly host

4



Lomandra

Tussock growth, strappy leaves, branched flower spikes

5



Swamp or River Lily

Fragrant showy white flowers

6



Common Silkpod

Robust; scented flowers; butterfly host; bird attractant

7



Wonga Vine

Vigorous; tubular flowers to 20 cm; white, yellow, pink

8



Zig Zag Vine

Vigorous, prune to keep as a shrub; perfumed flowers, edible fruit; butterfly host

9



Climbing Maidenhair Fern

Dainty fern-like leaves. Prefers moist rockeries

10

Riverine and Alluvial

		COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HEIGHT	WIDTH	FULL SUN	PARTIAL SHADE	FULL SHADE	FROST TOLERANT	FLOOD TOLERANT	DROUGHT TOLERANT	TOLERATES HEAVY CLAY SOILS	TOLERATES SANDY SOILS	FLOWER SEASON
GROUND-COVERS AND GRASSES	1	Everlasting or Paper Daisy	<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i>	30cm	30cm						✓		✓	Summer
	2	Bungwall (Fern)	<i>Blechnum indicum</i>	Up to 1m	spreading			✓				✓		n/a
	3	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda australis</i>	1.5m	1m				✓		✓		✓	n/a
	4	Karamat	<i>Hygrophila angustifolia</i>	Up to 1m	1m	✓	✓		✓			✓		Autumn
	5	Lomandra	<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	1m	1m	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	Spring/Summer
	6	Swamp or River Lily	<i>Crinum pendunculatum</i>	1m	1m	✓		✓		✓		✓		Spring/Summer
VINES	7	Common Silkpod	<i>Parsonia straminea</i>	n/a	n/a	✓	✓							Spring
	8	Wonga Vine	<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	n/a	n/a	✓	✓		✓					Winter to Spring
	9	Zig Zag Vine	<i>Melodurum leichhardtii</i>	n/a	n/a	✓	✓							Spring
	10	Climbing Maidenhair Fern	<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>	n/a	n/a			✓						n/a
SHRUBS AND SCRAMBLERS	11	Blue Tongue	<i>Melastoma affine</i>	2m	1m	✓	✓			✓		✓		All year
	12	Breynia	<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	3m	2m	✓	✓					✓		Spring
	13	Native Mulberry	<i>Pipterus argenteus</i>	8m	2m	✓	✓				✓	✓		Spring to Autumn
	14	Orange Thorn	<i>Pittosporum multiflorum</i>	2m	1m	✓	✓		✓			✓		Spring to Summer
	15	Velvet Leaf	<i>Callicarpa pendunculata</i>	2m	1m	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		Summer
TREES	16	Black She-Oak	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	6m	3m	✓			✓		✓		✓	Winter
	17	Creek Sandpaper Fig	<i>Ficus coronata</i>	15m	6m	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	Spring
	18	Veiny Wilkiea	<i>Wilkiea huegeliana</i>	8m	2m		✓			✓		✓		Spring to Summer
	19	Weeping Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	5-7m	3m	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	Spring
	20	Weeping Lilly Pilly	<i>Waterhousia floribunda</i>	30m	10m	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	Spring to Summer

For more species please refer to Native Species Planting Guide for

Tweed and Byron Shires www.byron.nsw.gov.au/native-plants

Native Mulberry

Edible fruit; bird attractant, butterfly host



13

Orange Thorn

Spiny; cover for small birds; white flowers, edible berry



14

Velvet Leaf

Bright berries summer to winter; attracts small birds



15

Black She-Oak

Separate male and female; food for Glossy Black Cockatoos



16

Creek Sandpaper Fig

Hairy edible fruit on trunk and older branches; birds, flying foxes, butterfly host



17

Veiny Wilkiea

Perfumed white to yellow flowers; bird attractant, butterfly host



18

Weeping Bottlebrush

Flower spikes to 10 cm, bird & butterfly attractant



19

Weeping Lilly Pilly

Drooping branches; older leaves red



20



22

23

Blue Tongue

Prolific mauve flowers; edible fruit pulp



11

Breynia

Tiny flowers, red berries; bird attractant, butterfly host



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