



Shire of Busselton
Geographic Bay

NatureVerge

VERGE LANDSCAPING WITH A DIFFERENCE!



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This guide is intended to provide assistance in waterwise verge design for Shire of Busselton residents. Street verges account for a surprisingly large amount of land within the Shire of Busselton and allow room for public services such as water and power, as well as increasing public space and visually linking a streetscape.

Many of the Shire's verges are irrigated lawn, which require significant maintenance and use large amounts of water and fertiliser. In a drying climate, it is important now more than ever to identify ways in which we can reduce our water use, and replacing large areas of lawn with mulch and native plant species is a simple solution. Over-applied fertilisers also impact on our environment, with nutrients running off into stormwater drains, ending up in our rivers, wetlands and eventually into Geographe Bay.

You can make a positive difference to the environment with your verge, with a landscaping design that is waterwise, beautiful and reflects the natural heritage of the town. It can also save you time and money!

Who's responsible for the verge?

The Shire is responsible for street trees and enforcing verge requirements in the case of hazardous or unsuitable installations, but maintenance of the verge is the householders' responsibility. You therefore have the choice of what to do with your verge, provided it meets the Shire's requirements.

Why choose local native plants?

Local native plants and wildflowers are not only beautiful; they have a range of other benefits:

- The wildflowers, shrubs and trees of the Shire of Busselton are suited to the local soils and climate conditions.
- Local native plants support the range of living things (or biodiversity) within our area. They provide shelter and food for birds, butterflies, insects, frogs and mammals, and provide corridors of movement between areas of bushland.
- Local native plants are easier to care for than introduced plants. They require less fertiliser, water and pruning than introduced plants, so they can save you time and money and leave you more time to enjoy your garden.
- Most of the weeds existing in our environment today originated from gardens. Planting local native plants eliminates the risk of weeds ending up in our bushland.
- Local native plants help develop and maintain the unique natural character that is strongly valued in the Shire of Busselton.

Did you know that the Shire can provide free of charge 2 street trees for an average 20 metre verge frontage, four trees for a corner block and a maximum of six trees for a special rural or industrial area block (For full conditions see the Shire's Technical Specifications, Section 9c).

Species list

The Shire of Busseton encourages the use of the following local native plant species. Other plants may be used as long as they meet with the Shire's requirements, are waterwise and are not considered as environmental weeds.

Species	Flowers	Colour	Soil	Notes
<i>Trees</i>				
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> (WA peppermint)	Oct/Dec	White	Sand/gravel	6-8 m, Ringtail possum habitat
<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i> (red flowering gum)	Dec/May	Red/orange	Sand/loam/gravel	5-8 m, prefers some protection
<i>Eucalyptus caesia</i> (silver princess)	May/Sep	Pink/red	Sand/ loam/granite	2-6 m, pendulous branches
<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i> (Rottnest ti-tree)	Jan/Sep	White	Sand/limestone	2-8 m, tolerates salt and wind, interesting shapes
<i>Melaleuca preissiana</i> (moonah)	Nov - Jan	Cream/ white	Sand/swamps	2-9 metres
<i>Melaleuca viminea</i> (mohan)	Jul/Nov	Cream/ white	Sand/clay	1-5 m, suitable for smaller areas
<i>Shrubs</i>				
<i>Billardiera fusiformis</i> (Australian bluebell)	All year	Blue	Variable	Delicate hanging flowers. Twining shrub
<i>Calothamnus sanguineus</i> (silky-leaved bloodflower)	Mar-Jul	Red	Sand/gravel	One sided bottlebrush like flowers, pine like foliage
<i>Calytrix flavescens</i> (summer starflower)	Dec-Jan	Yellow	Sand	Delicate shrub grows to 50cm
<i>Dampiera linearis</i> (common Dampiera)	Aug-Dec	Blue	Sand/gravel	Lovely, brilliant blue flowers
<i>Darwinia citriodora</i> (lemon-scented Darwinia)	Aug-Oct	Red/orange	Gravel/granite	Widely cultivated, perfumed foliage



Species list continued...

Species	Flowers	Colour	Soil	Notes
<i>Eromophila glabra</i> spp	Various	Various	Various	Variable species with tube like flowers
<i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> (sea heath)	Jan-Feb	Pink/white	Sand	Hardy plant
<i>Hypocalymma angustifolium</i> (white myrtle)	Jun-Oct	White/cream	Sand/day/near watercourses	Delicate foliage with stems covered in flower
<i>Hypocalymma robustum</i> (Swan River myrtle)	Jun-Nov	Pink/red	Sand/gravel	One of our most vibrant spring wildflowers
<i>Leucophyta brownii</i> (cushion bush)	Dec-Feb	Yellow	Sand	Silvery-grey foliage, good border plant
<i>Melaleuca trichophylla</i>	Aug-Dec	Pink/purple	Sand/gravel	Vibrant cotton ball-like flowers
<i>Pimelea ferruginea</i>	Aug-Feb	Pink	Sand/limestone/granite	Cushion-like habit
<i>Strap-leaved shrubs</i>				
<i>Conostylis aculeata</i> (prickly conostylis)	Aug-Nov	Yellow	Variable	Small plant with multiple flower heads
<i>Conostylis candicans</i> (grey cottonhead)	Sept-Oct	Yellow	Sand/limestone	Compact
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i> (knotted club rush)	Oct-Jan	Brown/cream	Sand/granite/ limestone/ seasonal wetlands	Common along the coast, reed like foliage
<i>Anigozanthos flavidus</i> (tall kangaroo paw)	Nov-Jan	Green/red	Sand/day/gravel	Flowers can grow to 2m tall
<i>Dianella brevicaulis</i>	Oct-Dec	Blue/purple	Sand/clay	Distinctive foliage
<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i> (purple flag)	Aug-Jan	Purple	Various	Large open petals on long stems
<i>Groundcover</i>				
<i>Carpobrotus virescens</i> (pigface)	Sept-Jan	Purple	Coastal	Succulent creeper grey-green leaves.
<i>Hardenbergia comptoniana</i> (native wisteria)	Jul-Oct	Blue	Sand	Produces wonderful displays
<i>Kennedia coccinea</i> (coral vine)	Sep-Nov	Red	Sand	Brilliant red flowers



Process

Installing verge plantings of any type (except for lawn) requires permission from the Shire so that we can ensure that designs are not hazardous and do not interfere with pedestrian safety or motorists line-of-sight. Please submit the attached verge installation form prior to undertaking any works. Officers are available for assistance and there is no submission fee.

Complete verge installation form.



Submit to Shire of Busselton.



The Shire will assess your application and make any amendments necessary to ensure the plan conforms to the Shire's requirements.



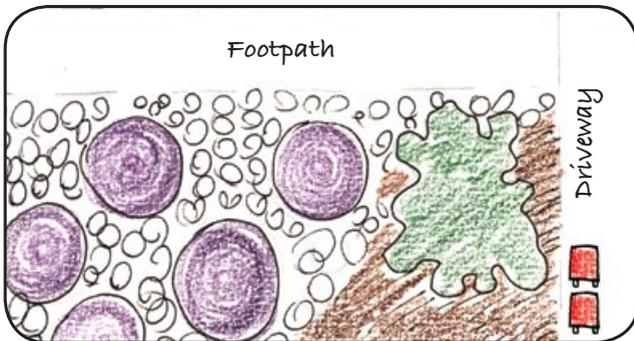
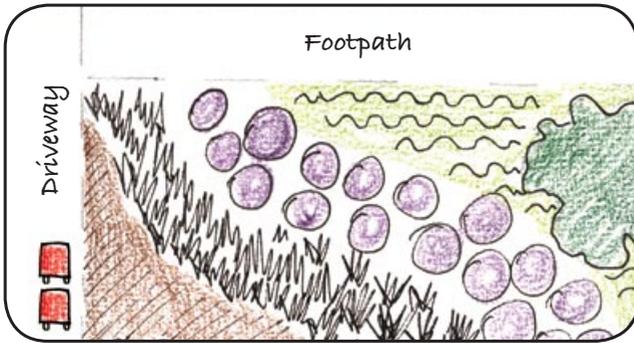
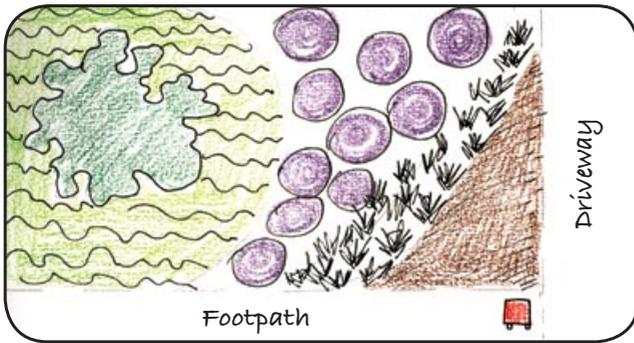
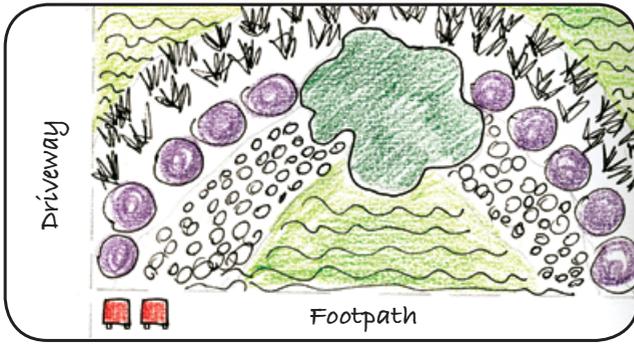
The landscaping plan will be returned to you, along with a letter of approval and any conditions that may apply.

What are the Shire's requirements?

- The verge landscaping must be waterwise and use species that are not considered environmental weeds. The Shire encourages the use of local native plants (have a look at our species list).
- Plants to be less than 75cm at maturity (excluding street trees) and not contain sharp edges or poisonous properties.
- Trees to be selected only from the approved tree list.
- Pavers (max 25% of area) must be professionally laid, with no trip points, non slip and bedded flush with surrounding infrastructure (Shire preference is for red clay pavers).
- Planting is not to interfere with vehicle or pedestrian sight lines.
- No loose stone aggregates.
- Pedestrians to have easily managed access path through verge (parallel to road) by existing footpath or allowance for access footpath at a minimum 2 metres width from back of kerb.
- All reticulation, if necessary, to be set at ground level height.
- Mulch to be contained within designated area.
- Flush ground levels are to be retained with surrounding infrastructure.
- Trees to be 2.5 metres off property boundary (service corridor), 1 metre minimum away from any underground service or dual use path and 2.5 metres from other infrastructure including crossovers, inspection pits etc.

Landscape designs

To the left are some suggested landscape designs, however you can be creative in your design (as long as it meets the Shire's requirements).
 Courtesy of Lynne Boladeras.



Key

-  Bins
-  Existing tree (or new planting)
-  Mulch
-  Strappy plants
-  Shrubs <0.75m
-  Ground covers
-  Contrasting "silvery" plants



Planting out

- Lay plants out in pots exactly where you want to plant them. Keep in mind the size and shape the plants will become.
- Dig a bowl-shaped hole twice as wide and slightly deeper than the pot. Loosen soil in and around the hole so the roots will have an open, light soil to grow into.
- Thoroughly water the plant, hole and surrounding soil before planting.
- Remove the plant from the pot. If the plant is root-bound, make a few vertical cuts through the root ball with secateurs.
- Place the plant in the centre of hole and backfill with surrounding moist soil. Press the soil in gently and firmly to remove air pockets. Place plant deep enough to form a shallow depression around it. This will protect the plant from drying out by directing water towards the roots.
- Spread a layer of suitable mulch.

Mulch

- The best type of mulch is coarse organic material eg. natural leaf litter or street tree loppings, as it lets water easily penetrate through to the soil and prevents evaporation.
- Lay a depth of 5-10cm to prevent weed establishment but still allowing water to penetrate.
- Avoid mulching too close to the plant stem, as the constant humidity encourages plant diseases.
- Organic mulches need renewing seasonally as they break down over time. They are best applied in spring and early summer:
- Avoid some packaged mulches as they contain high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus which aren't suitable for WA plants.



Watering

- Local plants are adapted to our dry climate and low rainfall and need some stress to perform their best.
- Overwatering leads to shorter lived plants with excessive growth and less prolific flowering.
- Overwatering can also encourage diseases that lead to root rot, as well as leaching nutrients out of the soil.
- The best irrigation to use is adjustable dripper/trickle systems or subsurface irrigation. This reduces evaporation loss and prevents overwatering.
- For new plants water:
 - once or twice a week in the first few weeks after planting.
 - once or twice a week in the summer period for the first 1-2 years until plants are established.
- For established plants, only water when there is a heat wave, when subsurface soil is dry or when signs of stress are apparent.
- Always follow water restrictions. Check out www.watercorporation.com.au for information on your sprinkler roster.

Fertilisers

- Our local native plants are adapted to soils that are low in nutrients, so generally do not require fertiliser.
- If you do wish to apply fertiliser, slow-release, low phosphorus fertilisers are the best to use.

Nature Verge Installation Form

I, (name of applicant).....
request permission to install landscaping treatment on the verge adjacent to

(property address).....

During installation and upon completion of the work I agree to maintain the verge installation so as not to cause a hazard, including watering and maintaining any overflow on site.

Applicant signature:.....

Date:

Contact details:

Postal Address (if different from above)

.....
.....

Phone number:

Please show dimensions of the area to be landscaped, approximate position of the proposed plants, the type and layout of reticulation (if any) and paving noting any existing features (services, crossover, street tree, footpath, bin space etc) on landscape sketch overleaf. Please attach proposed species list (including locality and height at maturity if not from the approved species list).

Shire Officer to complete

Permission is given for the verge proposal as in this submitted sketch to be installed.

Signature Shire Officer

.....



Your Landscape Sketch



Find out more

Geographe Community Landcare Nursery website for local species and projects
<http://geographelandcarenursery.mysouthwest.com.au/>

Water Corporation website for waterwise gardening
www.watercorporation.com.au/

Sustainable Gardening Australia website
www.sgaonline.org.au/

FloraBase website
<http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/>

Great Gardens workshops
www.greatgardens.info

Growing Locals by Powell, R. & Emberson, J. (1996). WA Naturalist's Club, Perth.

Growing Local Native Plants in Busselton Urban Areas – a Guide by the Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre and GeoCatch (2007).

Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Australia's South West by Scott, J. & Negus, P. (2002). Cape to Cape Publishing, North Fremantle.

Participating nurseries

Geographe Community Landcare Nursery

366 Queen Elizabeth Avenue
Phone: 9754 2049
<http://geographelandcarenursery.mysouthwest.com.au>

Anniebrook Plants & Design

Location 1710 Caves Rd, Dunsborough
Phone: 9755 3705

Newtown Nursery

Bussell Highway, Vasse
Phone: 9755 4955

The Native Nursery

(By appointment only) Busselton
Phone: 9751 1427

Bunnings

Cnr Strelly Street and Busselton Bypass, Busselton
Phone: 9752 6100

Mitre 10

West Street, Busselton
Phone: 9752 4022

The Shire of Busselton's demonstration verges are located opposite the Shire's Offices on Southern Drive and on Strelly Street in the Light Industrial Area.

Flora photos courtesy of Martin Pritchard, Katie Biggs and Richard Clark.



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Geographie Bay

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