



PLANTING AND GARDENING AT MULLUM CREEK

MULLUM CREEK RECOMMENDED PLANT LIST

Mullum Creek estate has been designed to integrate with the natural landscape of the Mullum Valley, and also to be highly environmentally sustainable, reducing residents' requirements for energy, water and resources. The vegetation that you choose for planting around your home can help achieve this vision, through

- contributing to a harmonious landscape that integrates both visually and ecologically with the natural environment of the Mullum Mullum valley,
- ensuring that all homes receive their fair share of sunlight by selecting species that fit within the 3D vegetation envelopes,
- reducing the amount of water used for garden irrigation, by using drought-resistant plants,
- producing fruit and vegetables for home consumption with minimal environmental impacts,
- maintaining the local biodiversity through selecting locally indigenous plants grown from local sources, and
- providing habitat for birds, mammals and insects.

To make it easier for you and your landscape designer to select appropriate plants for your lot, we have put together a list to choose from, with species suitable for a range of applications.

The plants on the list are strongly recommended for use at Mullum Creek. You are not required to select exclusively from this list, however by using these plants you will greatly assist the achievement of Mullum Creek landscape and sustainability vision. When planted as suggested, these species will tend to be less prone to failure than other species might be. They have been selected for one or more of the following characteristics:

- size and scale appropriate for use in urban settings, and for maintaining solar access to your own and adjoining homes
- suitability for use in urban settings
- suitability for local conditions
- ability to withstand drought and changed climate conditions, insect attack and disease
- ability to protect, maintain and support local flora and fauna and ecological processes
- lack of weediness (won't spread into surrounding bushland)
- longevity – many of the plants are long-lived
- reduced requirement for maintenance and watering
- suitability for a range of horticultural purposes
- attractiveness – although a number of these plants are less common in horticulture, they nonetheless have great aesthetic value for garden plantings
- complementary to the colours and textures of the natural landscape and vegetation of the Mullum Valley
- productivity – production of fruit, nuts, vegetables

The dimensions and cultivation notes are based on our best knowledge of the species and the conditions at Mullum Creek, and do not necessarily match the specifications you may find in other references. Please note though that as plants and environments vary greatly we cannot guarantee they will perform as suggested. Your landscape designer can help select plants of appropriate dimensions for your site.

Signature trees

Every garden needs to include the minimum number of signature trees as set out in the Mullum Creek Design Guidelines (R59) with species selected from the Signature Trees List. This is to provide the framework for a consistent landscape appearance throughout the estate, to complement the local bushland, and give Mullum Creek a distinctive, unique character all its own.

Designing a planting scheme for your lot

Every lot at Mullum Creek will vary in characteristics critical to plant growth and survival. These characteristics can also vary markedly within lots. They include soil type, soil depth, aspect, exposure to wind, drainage, soil moisture, and proximity to buildings and other vegetation. We have listed the conditions that we believe the listed species will thrive in, or at least tolerate. To ensure your plantings survive and flourish and give you many years of use and pleasure, we strongly recommend that you closely study the conditions of your lot, including the location of proposed buildings and other developments, and ensure the plants you select are suitable for the conditions in which you intend to place them.

Why use indigenous plants?

Many of the plants on the Mullum Creek Recommended Plant List are indigenous species that occur within broadly similar environments in the City of Manningham. The use of indigenous plants is strongly encouraged at Mullum Creek, although you are not compelled to do so (apart from planting the minimum number of signature species). We recommend their use for the following reasons:

- they are highly adapted to local conditions – such as soils, climate, pests
- they provide food and habitat for a wide range of local fauna – insects, birds, mammals
- they are consistent with the natural vegetation of the Mullum Valley
- their use throughout the estate will help create a strong local landscape character, expressing the natural beauty of the Mullum Valley
- contributes to the conservation and biodiversity values of the Mullum Creek estate

There are many other locally indigenous plants that are suitable for planting at Mullum Creek that are not on the recommended list – we have only listed those we feel are most suited to the estate and easiest to grow and manage. However we encourage you to investigate further the marvelous opportunities for using locally indigenous plants. Be aware though that some of them may have particular requirements such as moisture or soil type, or may require more attention in a garden context such as weeding, pruning and so on. Please refer to the references given below for further information.

Buying indigenous plants

Although it may not seem important, it is vital that indigenous plants used in landscaping are grown from local sources. This will ensure that the character of the local plant populations is protected from the genetic dilution and loss of local character that can result from inter-breeding with non-local specimens.

To promote the use of local plants, we have listed a number of nearby nurseries that stock plants grown from local sources. Mullum Creek offers an incentive towards the purchase of locally indigenous plants listed on the Recommended Plant List, from the nurseries listed in **Appendix 1a** at the back of this document.

Growing fruit and vegetables

Fruit trees provide fresh fruit for the household, are highly attractive, and come in a range of sizes able to fit within the 3D vegetation envelopes. As many are deciduous they can help provide shade in summer and access to sunlight in winter. They can also help serve as shields against radiant heat in the extremely unlikely event of fire. The Recommended Plant List includes a number of fruit and nut and berry trees, but others are available, and we encourage you to investigate other productive plants. Bear in mind though that they often have exacting requirements with respect to soil, fertility, moisture, aspect, heat, cold, wind and horticulture, so make sure you only select plants suited to Mullum Creek and in particular to your site. As for other plants, the maximum height must fit within the 3-D Vegetation Envelope – luckily there are many dwarf varieties of fruit and nut trees available.

To encourage the growing of fruit trees, Mullum Creek offers an incentive to help with their purchase - please refer to the Mullum Creek Incentives List. Plants are available from many outlets, however the retailers listed in **Appendix 1b** offer a wide range of interesting varieties along with information on their characteristics and requirements.

Home-grown vegetables can contribute a significant amount to a household's fresh food requirements. Home gardens also contribute to sustainability by reducing the resources and energy used in growing, processing, storing, transporting and distributing fresh produce; they also make good use of compost, and can be watered with rainwater captured from the home's roof. We therefore strongly encourage including a vegetable garden in your lot's landscape plan. Seeds and seedlings are widely stocked, however an extensive range of seeds of interesting heritage varieties are available by mail from The Digger's Club, listed in **Appendix 1b**.

Raised beds using high quality, clean imported soil enriched with compost are ideal for growing vegetables at Mullum Creek. The estate's naturally occurring topsoil tends to be shallow and silty, and may contain minimal amounts of residues from former landuses (buildings, sheds and orchards), and as such in-ground vegetable beds and chicken runs could benefit from aeration and the addition of clean imported soils and compost.

Planting within the 3-D vegetation envelopes

We have tried to estimate the maximum heights of plants, given knowledge of their known maximums under ideal conditions and taking into account the conditions prevailing at Mullum Creek. However both plants and environments are highly variable, so we cannot guarantee that the plants on the list will perform as indicated. It is the responsibility of the lot owner to ensure that the plants remain in the 3-D vegetation envelope at all times. In the event a plant extends beyond the envelope, pruning by a qualified arborist can easily restore it to an acceptable height while maintaining its attractive form and health.

Weedy species

Many horticultural plants have the ability to propagate themselves and spread outwards from the site of their initial planting, with the potential to invade natural bushland, smothering and eventually displacing many of the indigenous plant species. This can have devastating effects on populations of native flora and fauna, including insects and birds, and can permanently change the ecology of an area. Many of these invasive species originate from garden plantings. Unfortunately the valley of the Mullum Mullum Creek has been particularly badly impacted by invasive plants. In the interests of protecting the values of the surrounding bushland, Mullum Creek cannot approve plants that are known to be invasive. See the references below for plants known to be invasive in this area. The Recommended Plant List only contains plants with low invasive potential. Please contact the DRC if you have any questions about the invasive potential of plants you are considering using that are not on the Recommended Plant List.

Using sustainable landscaping materials

To promote the Mullum Creek sustainability and landscape vision, it is strongly recommended that you use materials that minimise environmental impacts in their production, transport, use and disposal, and that are consistent with the local landscape in terms of colour, texture and appearance. This includes materials such as stone, rock, gravel, sand, soil, pavers, timber, woodchips and mulch. As far as possible, we recommend working with and using the soils, landforms and materials that are already on your site, unless you want to import fresh soil for garden beds and chicken runs. Mullum Creek is compiling a list of sustainable landscape materials you can refer to.

Engaging a landscape professional

As landscaping at Mullum Creek requires a high degree of design input to fulfill the estate's landscape and sustainability vision and meet the demands of the site, as well as to gain smooth passage through the Design Review Committee process, the use of a landscape design professional is strongly recommended. Mullum Creek offers an incentive to achieve this. The landscape design Incentive offers a landscape design and consultation provided a Mullum Creek recommended landscape architect / designer to the value of \$2,500 (ex GST). These recommended professionals are familiar with Mullum Creek, its vision and its guidelines.

References

Indigenous plants

Native splendour: a gardening guide to Manningham's local plants Manningham City Council (2009) 2nd ed

Gardener's guide to indigenous planting in Warrandyte and surrounding areas Friends of Warrandyte State Park (nd)

Flora of Melbourne: a guide to the indigenous plants of the Greater Melbourne region Bull, M. & Stolto, G. (2014) 4th ed., Hyland House, Melbourne

Plant Indigenous - a guide for Whitehorse Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society and the City of Whitehorse
Fruit, nut and vegetables

The Australian Fruit and Vegetable Garden The Diggers Club, Dromana

The Complete Book of Fruit Growing in Australia Glowinski, L. (1997) 2nd ed., Hachette, Sydney (contains a lot of information on dimensions, requirements, cultivation, and maximising fruit production)

Environmental weeds

Weeds: identification and control of common weeds in Manningham Manningham City Council (2010) – available from the Manningham website www.manningham.vic.gov.au/file/1311/download

Advisory list of environmental weeds of the coastal plains and heathy forests bioregions of Victoria (DSE 2008) - available for downloading from: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/187779749?selectedversion=NBD52263026&q&versionId=204366287>

Advisory list of environmental weeds of the inland plains bioregions of Victoria (DSE 2009) - available for downloading from: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/187779749?selectedversion=NBD52263026&q&versionId=204366288>

Advisory list of environmental weeds of the Ranges bioregions of Victoria (DSE 2009) - available for downloading from: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/187779749?selectedversion=NBD52263026&q&versionId=204650428>

APPENDIX 1a

List of nurseries supplying indigenous plants suitable for Mullum Creek

- **Friends of Warrandyte State Park Nursery**

Website: <http://fowsp.org.au/nursery.php>

Email: nursery@fowsp.org.au

Phone: 0408317327

Address: Warrandyte State Park Depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte

Hours: Thursday 9.30am – 12.30pm, first Saturday every month 9am – 1pm, first Sunday every month 2pm-4pm

- **Candlebark Community Nursery**

Website: <http://www.candlebark.org.au/>

Email: info@candlebark.org.au

Phone: 97270594

Address: corner Hull Rd and Taylor Rd Mooroolbark (enter from Hull Rd)

Hours: Monday to Thursday 9am - 3.30pm, Sundays 10am - 2pm

- **Manningham City Council nursery**

Email: manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au ('attn Bushland Management Officer, Parks and Gardens Unit')

Phone: 98460509 (Bushland Management Officer, Parks and Recreation Unit)

Address: Manningham Council Depot, cnr Balckburn and Reynolds Road Doncaster East

Hours: by appointment

- **Australian Ecosystems**

Website: <http://www.australianecosystems.com.au/Nursery.htm>

Email: nursery@australianecosystems.com.au

Phone: 9775 0612

Address: Eastern Treatment Plant Cnr Alan Bird Drive and Thompson Road Bangholme 3197

Hours: by appointment

- **CRISP (Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant) nursery**

Website: www.crisp.org.au

Email: crisp@melbpc.org.au

Phone: 98793911

Address: 17 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood, 3134

Hours: Wednesday and Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm, Saturday 10am to 1pm

- **Bungalook Nursery**

Website: [http:// http://www.wcipp.org.au/BN-OrderForm.htm](http://http://www.wcipp.org.au/BN-OrderForm.htm)

Email: wcipp@yahoo.com.au

Address: 63-107 Fulton Rd, Blackburn South

Hours: Friday morning 9:30am - 12:00 noon

- **Greenlink Box Hill Nursery**

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/greenlinkboxhill/nurseries>

Email: greenlinkboxhill@gmail.com

Phone: 0479121653

Address: 41 Wimmera Street Box Hill North 3129

Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-12pm or by appointment; some Saturdays

APPENDIX 1b

List of nurseries supplying fruit trees, vegetables plants and seedlings (there are many other nurseries)

- **CERES Nursery**

Website: <http://www.ceres.org.au/nursery/nursery.html>

Email: nursery@ceres.org.au

Phone: 93890111

Address: cnr Roberts and Stewart Streets, Brunswick East 3057

Hours: 9am to 5pm 7 days a week

- **The Diggers Club**

Website: www.diggers.com.au

Phone: 59847900

Address: a) 105 Latrobe Pde, Dromana 3936; b) Garden of St Erth, Simmons Reef Road, Blackwood 3458