**Guide to INDIGENOUS PLANTS of the Nepean Peninsula**

**INTRODUCTION**

The vegetation and flora of the Nepean Peninsula is a fascinating and unique feature of the environment and is reflective of the historical and cultural aspects of the area. The indigenous species of plants have adapted to the coastal environment of the Nepean Peninsula. This guide aims to provide an overview of the indigenous plants found in the area.

**Soil of the Nepean Peninsula**

The soils of the Nepean Peninsula are derived from sandstone, shale and basalt. The soil profile is shallow due to the high rate of decomposition of organic matter and the rapid drainage due to the sandy nature of the soil.

**Historical Background**

The first European settlers arrived in the area in the late 18th century and made use of the natural resources. The coastal flora and fauna were used for food, shelter and clothing. The First Nations people had a deep understanding of the natural environment and used fire to encourage the growth of certain plants.

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**PERMIT IS REQUIRED TO REMOVE NATIVE VEGETATION.**

With raised awareness of its value we hope to promote the indigenous vegetation on the Nepean Peninsula.

**SHRUBS**

- **Coast Daisy-bush**
  - A soft grey bushy shrub to 1.5m x 1m. Common along the coastline. Grows to 1m x 1m.

- **Small-flower Flax-lily**
  - A useful hardy contrasting plant. Plants can be divided. Self seeds.

- **Coast Wattle**
  - A tufted narrow leafed perennial grass to 1m x 1m. Suitable for hardy, quick growing hedges.

- **Peninsula Daisy-bush**
  - A shrub to 2.5m x 1.5m with fine thorns. Dark green above, light green beneath. Flowers white in Spring and Summer. Propagates readily from cuttings. Obtainable from nurseries.

- **Wirilda**
  - A perennial shrub to 1.5m x 1m with large blue-green leaves. Tastes and smells like garlic.

- **Boobialla**
  - A shrub to 1.5m x 1m with large blue-green leaves. Flowers June to August, white to purple. Small round fruits.

- **Hedge Wattle**
  - A hardy tufted perennial to 1m x 1m with rigid erect round leathery phyllodes 1-3cm. Flowers Aug. to Nov., yellow. Round purplish fruit.

- **Senecio odoratus**
  - A perennial shrub to 1.5m x 1m with large blue-green leaves. Flowers Aug. to Nov., white to purple. Small round fruits.

- **Atriplex cinerea**
  - A tufted narrow leafed perennial grass to 1m x 1m. Suitable for hardy, quick growing hedges.

- **Pomaderris paniculosa**
  - A hardy tufted perennial to 1m x 1m. Suitable for hardy, quick growing hedges.

- **Adriana quadripartita**
  - A shrub to 2.5m x 1.5m with fine thorns. Dark green above, light green beneath. Flowers white in Spring and Summer. Fast growing but is often short lived.

- **Allocasuarina verticillata**
  - A small tree to 7m x 2m. Racemes of pale yellow flowers in Spring to Summer. Good for screening and windbreak. Leaves thick and smooth. Small white fruits.

- **Atriplex aculeata**
  - A small tree to 8m x 3m. Old gnarled trees have great character. Yellow/brown very fine flower spikes on male trees.

- **Tamarix nilotica**
  - A large shrub to 3m x 3m. Broad, thick, blunt leaves with long, dark green above, light green beneath. An extremely quick grower, ideal for windbreaks.

- **Beyeria leschenaultii**
  - A large shrub to 3m x 3m. Broad, thick, blunt leaves with long, dark green above, light green beneath. An extremely quick grower, ideal for windbreaks.

- **Ozothamnus turbinatus**
  - A great character and specimen tree to 9m x 4m. Large pale yellow flowers in Spring to Summer. Good for hedging. Leaves smooth and firm. Very long flowering period.

- **Dianella brevicaulis**
  - A small beady-like fruits which attract the birds. The tallest and very common under shrub. Grows to 4m x 3m.

- **Pimelia serpyllifolia**
  - Tiny yellow flowers in Spring to Summer. A very widespread plant in the understory. Grows to 1.5m x 0.75m.

- **Lomandra longifolia**
  - A soft grey bushy shrub to 1.5m x 1m. Common along ocean coastline. Grows to 1m x 1m.

- **Coast Banksia**
  - A rare, as yet unnamed plant found only in isolated locations on ocean cliffs. Thin tangled branchlets. An interesting contrasting plant. Plants can be divided. Self seeds.

- **Banksia serrata**
  - A small tree to 8m x 3m. Old gnarled trees have great character. Yellow/brown very fine flower spikes on male trees.

- **Beaumontia grandis**
  - A small tree to 8m x 3m. Old gnarled trees have great character. Yellow/brown very fine flower spikes on male trees.

- **Acacia retinodes var uncifolia**
  - A small tree to 7m x 2m. Racemes of pale yellow flowers in Spring to Summer. Good for screening and windbreak. Leaves thick and smooth. Small white fruits.

- **P. Gelida**
  - An attractive small shrub to 1.5m x 1m. Leaves firm, rounded, dark green above, paler green underneath. Flowers white in Spring and Summer. Fast growing but is often short lived.

- **Alyxia buxifolia**
  - An attractive small shrub to 1.5m x 1m. Leaves firm, rounded, dark green above, paler green underneath. Flowers white in Spring and Summer. Fast growing but is often short lived.

- **Atriplex aculeata**
  - A small tree to 7m x 2m. Racemes of pale yellow flowers in Spring to Summer. Good for screening and windbreak. Leaves thick and smooth. Small white fruits.
PLANTING
- The flowers bloom in June after good rain and while the soil is still warm and fertility is also high. They can flower for 2 months if well watered. Two to four weeks are needed for full blooming and it is essential to give the plants protection from cold winds in winter.
- Once established, do not move the plants again. It is difficult to obtain moisture and soil is not good. Avoid overpruning. It may be difficult to obtain them in the future. Ask for plants at nurseries.

TRAILS
- Kindly seed-planted after the first flowering. The seeds are very fine and need good soil conditions and a lot of rain water. The plants will grow very slowly. The seedlings may not grow much without watering. It is advisable to place the seedlings within 30 cm of each other. Either buy them from seed stores or propagation
- Rapidly and very strongly grow. It is a good idea to try and grow the plant in the garden. It can be grown in small pots as an indoor plant.

SHRUBS
- The plants are hardy shrubs of good character. The plants will grow very slowly. It is advisable to place the seedlings within 30 cm of each other. Follow the advice of the nursery.
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Climbers and scramblers
- A useful hardy shrub to 2m x 1.5m. To tolerant an exposed situation and an excellent cover for exposed areas. Scaevola is suffering dieback. Also, in much of this area, it is not suitable for use as cover or screen plants. The plants will grow very slowly and may not perform well, especially in the garden. It is advisable to place the seedlings within 30 cm of each other. Follow the nursery advice.

Weeds
- A major threat to our natural vegetation is weed species. Smilax, Dolichos Pea and Cape Ivy are some of the species that are currently threatening the existence of our natural vegetation. Smilax, Dolichos Pea and Cape Ivy will grow very slowly and may not perform well. It is advisable to place the seedlings within 30 cm of each other. Follow the nursery advice.

Nurseries
- A Bushland Garden 2 years old. It is a good idea to try and grow the plant in the garden. It can be grown in small pots as an indoor plant.