



# A Bushfood Garden



Natural Heritage Trust

*Helping Communities Helping Australia*

An Australian Government Initiative



Hunter-Central Rivers

CMA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## Introduction

Bushfoods have gained popularity in the food industry in the last 20 years. A Bushfood garden could provide herbs, spices, fruits and nectar and perhaps a cottage industry could grow to sell the dried produce.

There is also potential to use the garden as an educational resource. This could include workshops for Plant and Fruit Use; Animal Foraging and Distribution among others These could have broad popularity with schools and members of the public.

The planting of a Bushfood Garden would best be done as a “food forest” with interplanting of different species and forms as in a natural system rather than an orchard or plantation. While this would lower the production of the bushfood system, it would be more aesthetically pleasing, minimise the planting area and allow niches for some more sensitive plants (for example, *Davidsonia pruriens* Davidson Plum) that require sun and wind protection. See Planting Considerations.

The garden could be divided into 3 parts:

1. Out of zone natives
2. In zone natives
3. Nectar and wattle seed garden



# 1. Out of zone natives

The creation of the out-of-zone native part of the Bushfood Garden needs some planning. This section would be the most challenging because it will need the most maintenance and monitoring but the benefits could be great.

The Planting Program should consider the following:

- The weed potential of any of the species  
The list will not include out of zone *Acacia* species or wetland species because of the propensity of these species to spread. Further, fruiting plants may become a problem also.

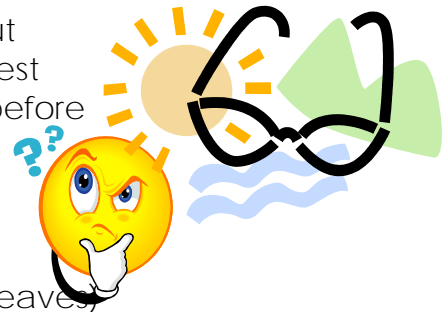


- Harvesting and maintenance regime  
Fruiting species could present problems if the garden was not maintained to include pest and weed control, and the fruit, not harvested, could be distributed by native animals around the surrounding areas.



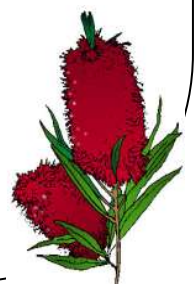
Maintenance including pest and weed control needs to be planned and adhered to annually to ensure the health and productivity of the plants.

- **The plant's requirements** need considering .  
Each plant needs a little research to work out what conditions it needs to grow to its fullest potential. These requirements are needed before a plan is drafted for planting.



Plantings could include the following:

- *Acronychia acidula*- Lemon Aspen (fruit and leaves)
- *Alpinia caerulea*- Native Ginger (Red-backed form) - (fruit and rhizomes) 2m
- *Austromyrtus dulcis*- Midyim Berry (fruit) 1m
- *Backhousia anisata*- Aniseed Myrtle (leaves)
- *Backhousia citriodora*- Lemon Myrtle (leaves)
- *Davidsonia pruriens*- Davidson Plum (fruit)
- *Diploglottis campbellii*- Small-leafed Tamarind (fruit)
- *Elaeocarpus grandis*- Blue Quandong (fruit)
- *Leptospermum petersonii*- Lemon-scented Tea Tree (leaves)
- *Macadamia integrifolia*- Macadamia Nut (nut)
- *Macadamia tetraphylla*- Macadamia Nut (nut)
- *Microcitrus australasica*- Finger Lime (fruit)
- *Prostanthera rotundifolia* Mint Bush (leaves)
- *Syzygium luehmannii*- Riberry (fruit)
- *Tasmania lanceolata* Pepperberry (fruit and leaves)



# 1. Out of zone natives



CSIRO



ANBG photo M. Fagg

*Acronychia acidula* Lemon Aspen  
(fruit and leaves)



*Alpinia caerulea*  
Native Ginger  
(Red-backed form)  
(fruit and rhizomes)  
2m



www.anbg.gov.au

*Austromyrtus dulcis*  
Midyim Berry (fruit)  
1m



www.bushfood.net

*Backhousia anisata*  
Aniseed Myrtle (leaves)



Gernot Katzer

*Backhousia citriodora*  
Lemon Myrtle (leaves)



www.sgapald

*Davidsonia pruriens*  
Davidson Plum (fruit)



ANBG photo Ollerenshaw

*Diploglottis campbellii*  
Small-leafed Tamarind  
(fruit)



Forest & Kim Starr (USGS)

*Elaeocarpus grandis*  
Blue Quandong (fruit)



# 1. Out of zone natives



*Leptospermum petersonii*  
Lemon-scented  
Tea Tree (leaves)



*Macadamia integrifolia*  
Macadamia Nut  
(nut)



*Macadamia tetraphylla*  
Macadamia Nut (nut)



*Microcitrus australasica*  
Finger Lime (fruit)



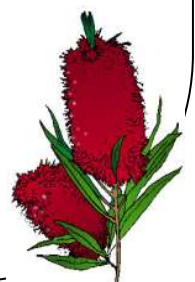
*Prostanthera rotundifolia*  
Mint Bush (leaves)



*Syzygium luehmannii*  
Riberry (fruit)



*Tasmania lanceolata* Pepperberry (fruit and leaves)



## 2. In zone natives

A separate section of the Bushfood Garden could have local native plants which, while not commercialised like those in the out of zone list, are local traditional bush tucker plants.

Most of the species below are rainforest type plants which should grow well in the area. Some species, such as *Alectryon subcinereus* Native Quince, *Maclura cochinchinensis* Cockspur Thorn, *Podocarpus elatus* Plum Pine, and *Streblus brunonianus* Whalebone Tree, are components of the remnant rainforest pockets of the Lower Hunter.

Weed potential and harvesting regime will not be issues as excess fruits will be harvested and dispersed by the native animals into natural zones. Requirements of each plant need collection and consideration to enable a planting strategy.

Local species planting could include the following:

Trees and Shrubs

- *Syzygium (Acmena) smithii* - Creek Lillipilly (fruit)
- *Acronychia oblongifolia* - Acronychia (leaves and fruit)
- *Alectryon subcinereus* - Native Quince (fruit)
- *Archirhodomyrtus beckleri* - Rose Myrtle (fruit)
- *Breynia oblongifolia* - Coffee Bush (fruit)
- *Diploglottis australis* - Native Tamarind (fruit)
- *Eupomatia laurina* - Bolwarra (fruit)
- *Ficus coronata* - Creek Sandpaper Fig (fruit)
- *Hibiscus heterophyllus* - Native Hibiscus (flowers)
- *Podocarpus elatus* - Plum Pine (fruit)
- *Pouteria (Planchonella) australis* - Black Apple (fruit)
- *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* - Native Guava (fruit)
- *Sambucus australasica* - Native Elderberry (fruit)
- *Streblus brunonianus* - Whalebone Tree (fruit)
- *Syzygium paniculatum* - Magenta Lillipilly (fruit)-(Threatened Species)

Groundcovers/ Ferns/ Grasses

- *Alpinia caerulea*- Native Ginger (fruit and rhizomes)
- *Blechnum indicum* Bungwall Fern (roots)
- *Commelina cyanea*- Scurvy Weed, Creeping Christian (shoots and leaves)
- *Dianella caerulea*- Paroo Lily (fruit)
- *Lomandra longifolia*- Mat Rush (base of leaves)
- *Tetragonia tetragonoides* Warrigal Greens (leaves)
- *Viola hederacea*- Native Violet (flowers)



## 2. In zone natives

### Vines

Less vigorous vines (\*) could be planted with the groundcovers/ ferns/grasses. More vigorous vines should only be planted when canopy has established, and trees and shrubs are at least 2-3 metres tall.

- *Billardiera scandens* Appleberry, Apple Dumplings\* (fruit)
- *Cissus antarctica*, *Cissus hypoglauca*- Native Grapes, Water Vines (fruit)
- *Dioscorea transversa*- Native Yam\* (tuber)
- *Maclura cochinchinensis* Cockspur Thorn (fruit) **Don't plant near paths** because of thorns.
- *Rubus moluccana* var. *trilobus* (formerly *Rubus hillii*), *Rubus parviflorus*, *Rubus rosifolius*- Native Raspberries\* (fruit)

### Wetland

Many of the local wetland bushfoods are already growing within the Lower Hunter and could be identified by signage rather than having a separate zone set aside for them. Once again, caution against growing any wetland plant not already on site because of the potential for weed invasion.

Local wetland bushfoods include:

- *Eleocharis* spp.- Spike Rushes (tubers)
- *Triglochin procera*- Water Ribbons (tubers)
- *Typha* spp.- Cumbungi, Bullrush (shoots)



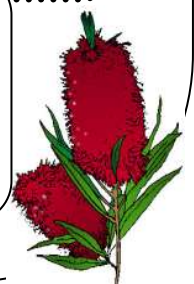
mmm Typha on Toast...  
available at your local waterway



*Triglochin procera*  
Water Ribbons



*Eleocharis sphacelata*  
Tall Spike  
Rush



## 2. In zone natives Trees and Shrubs



*Syzygium smithii*  
(Formerly *Acmena smithii*)  
Creek Lillipilly (fruit)



*Acronychia oblongifolia*  
Acronychia  
(leaves and fruit)



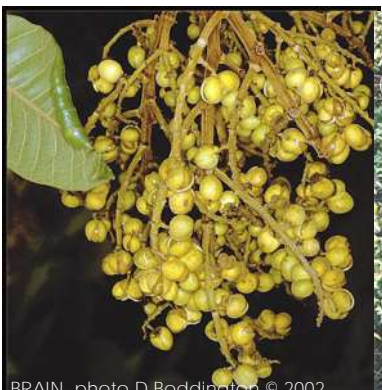
*Alecryon subcinereus*  
Native Quince  
(fruit)



*Archirhodomyrtus beckleri*  
Rose Myrtle (fruit)



*Breyntia oblongifolia* Coffee Bush (fruit)



*Diploglottis australis* Native Tamarind (fruit)



*Eupomatia laurina*  
Bolwarra (fruit)



## 2. In zone natives Trees and Shrubs



*Ficus coronata* Creek Sandpaper Fig (fruit)



*Hibiscus heterophyllus*  
Native Hibiscus (flowers)



*Podocarpus elatus*  
Plum Pine (fruit)



*Pouteria*  
(*Planchonella*)  
*australis*  
Black Apple (fruit)



*Rhodomyrtus psidiodes*  
Native Guava (fruit)



*Sambucus australasica*  
Native Elderberry (fruit)

*Syzygium*  
*paniculatum*  
Magenta Lillipilly (fruit)  
(Threatened Species)



Jackie Miles & Max Campbell



BRAIN © 2005

*Streblus*  
*brunonianus*  
Whalebone Tree  
(fruit)

## 2. In zone natives Groundcovers/ Ferns/ Grasses



*Alpinia caerulea* Native Ginger  
(fruit and rhizomes)

*Blechnum indicum*  
Bungwall Fern (roots)



*Commelina cyanea*  
Scurvy Weed, Creeping  
Christian (shoots and leaves)



*Dianella caerulea* Paroo Lily (fruit)



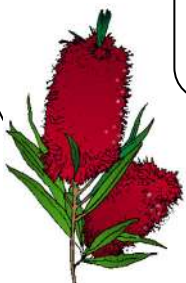
*Lomandra longifolia*  
Mat Rush  
(base of leaves)



*Tetragonia tetragonoides*  
Warrigal  
Greens  
(leaves)



*Viola hederacea*  
Native Violet  
(flowers)



## 2. In zone natives

### Vines



*Billardiera scandens*  
Appleberry, Apple Dumplings\* (fruit)



*Cissus antarctica*,  
Native Grapes,



*Cissus hypoglauca*  
Water Vines (fruit)



*Dioscorea transversa*  
Native Yam\* (tuber)



*Maclura cochinchinensis*  
Cockspur Thorn (fruit)



*Rubus*  
*moluccana*  
var. *trilobus*\*  
(formerly  
*Rubus hillii*)  
(fruit)



### 3. Nectar and Wattle Seed Garden

Plants in this section would require an open sunny position separate from the rainforest Bushfood Garden, as the shade and shelter provided by the rainforest plants would reduce the flowering and seeding.

Local plants for this garden could include:

- *Acacia fimbriata*- wattle (seed for coffee sub.)
- *Acacia longifolia*- Sydney Golden Wattle (seed)
- *Acacia sophorae*- Coastal Wattle (seed)
- *Banksia integrifolia*- Coastal Banksia (flower- nectar)
- *Banksia robur*- Swamp Banksia (flower- nectar)
- *Callistemon citrinus*- Red Bottlebrush (flower- nectar)
- *Melaleuca quinquenervia*- Broad-leaved Paperbark (flower- nectar/ bark also used for wrapping food for cooking)

*Melaleuca quinquenervia*  
Broad-leaved Paperbark



*Banksia integrifolia*  
Coastal Banksia  
(flower- nectar)



*Acacia fimbriata*  
Wattle (seed for coffee sub.)

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*Banksia robur*  
Swamp Banksia  
(flower- nectar)



*Acacia longifolia*  
Sydney Golden Wattle (seed)

*Callistemon citrinus*  
Red Bottlebrush  
(flower- nectar)



*Acacia sophorae*  
Coastal Wattle (seed)

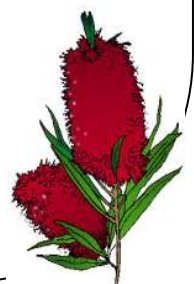


## Planting strategy

- As mentioned planting should be done in a natural forest style way, no rows of the same type of plant. A micro-climate situation should be aimed for.
- Planting should be done in stages.
- It may be necessary to plant a fast growing wind break along the west side to protect the first rainforest species planting from the hot westerlies and the cold south westerlies.
- This would be a perfect place to plant *Acacia fimbriata*, *Acacia longifolia* as they would be in full sun, as required, and grow fast enough to perform the task quickly.
- Take care not to take away your late north westerly sun in winter.
- Planting some species from the nectar and seed species will allow them to play a dual role and also save space to allow for the larger rainforest trees.
- Some of the plants will do better planted as 8 to 12 inch pot size. This will be necessary as a first planting to begin forming the protective micro-climate. They will consist of the hardier rainforest plants both out of zone and in zone.
- *Melaleuca quinquenervia* would be a good choice for a fast growing windbreak for the wetter areas.



*Melaleuca quinquenervia*  
Broad-leafed  
Paperbark

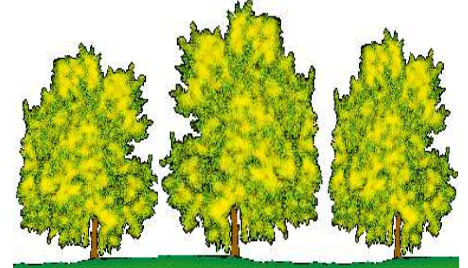


# Overall step by step

1. Poisoning the weeds on and around the garden and allowing time for the first take and the second or subsequent spraying strikes,
2. The garden is redesigned and shaped.
3. After this site preparation follow these planting steps:

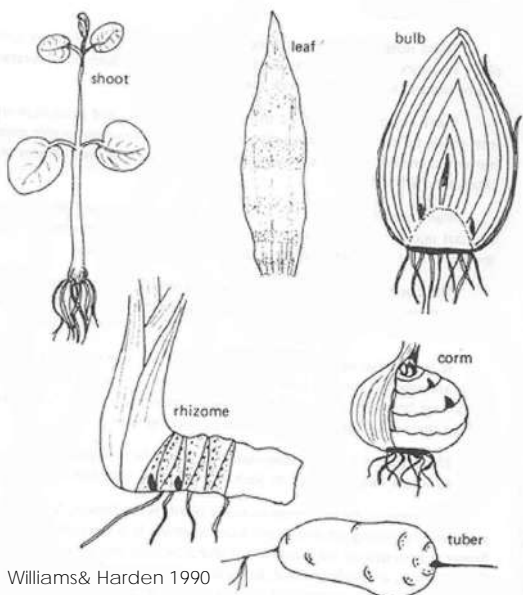
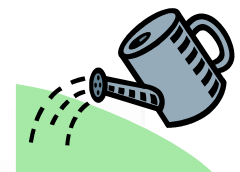
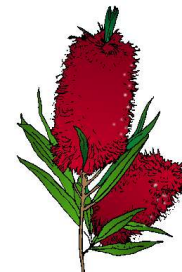
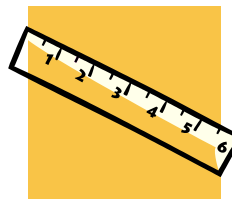


- a. Wind break
- b. Larger hardy rainforest
- c. Groundcovers and smaller vines
- d. Nectar plants
- e. Acacias
- f. Next less sensitive rainforest
- g. Sensitive rainforest
- h. Vigourous vines



To enable an accurate strategy, collect information on each plant including:

- Height
- Wind resistance
- Frost tolerance
- Sun and shade requirements
- Water requirements
- Part to harvest
- Growth time
- Growth form



Spreading shrub

Prostrate shrub



cladode

green stem

scale leaves



Map each zone

When planning a strategy for planting the garden take plant particulars and specifications and match them to the following

- Aspect -direction the garden is facing
- Prevailing wind direction
- Area size as a whole
- Area size of each division



You will be able to get a better idea of where each plant should go.

Draw a map of the area or access the future garden design and mark in each spot for the different species according to the requirements.



### Ordering Plants

- Not all species will be immediately available, particularly when local provenance is required.
- Out of zone natives could be sourced from TIN with plenty of notice especially if they need growing on.
- Species not available could be ordered for future planting.
- Orders could be divided up into their stages as above.
- TIN's contact details are
  - Ph: 4969 1500,
  - Fax: 4927 6821,
  - Email: [tin@bravo.net.au](mailto:tin@bravo.net.au)
  - [www.treesinnewcastle.org.au](http://www.treesinnewcastle.org.au)



  
trees  
IN NEWCASTLE



## Useful References

### Books

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# Acknowledgements

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### All pages

Clip Art Bottlebrush in the corners Down Under Collection Delux CD– New Horizons Educational Software. [Http://www.nh.com.au](http://www.nh.com.au)

### Cover image

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- *Diploglottis campbellii* Photographer: Ollerenshaw Australian National Botanic Gardens. Australian Plant Image Index. Department of the Environment and Heritage, Canberra [http://www.anbg.gov.au/images/photo\\_cd/732131822180/005.html](http://www.anbg.gov.au/images/photo_cd/732131822180/005.html) (Accessed 31/1/08)



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- *Prostanthera rotundifolia* photo by Jackie Miles & Max Campbell [http://thebegavalley.org.au/uploads/tx\\_steveplantgallery/index.html](http://thebegavalley.org.au/uploads/tx_steveplantgallery/index.html) (Accessed 31/1/08)
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- *Eleocharis sphacelata* photo by Jackie Miles and Max Campbell [http://thebegavalley.org.au/uploads/tx\\_steveplantgallery/Eleocharis\\_sphacelata\\_01\\_tall%20spike%20rush.jpg](http://thebegavalley.org.au/uploads/tx_steveplantgallery/Eleocharis_sphacelata_01_tall%20spike%20rush.jpg) (accessed 29/01/08)
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- *Diploglottis australis* - foliage & flowers - David Somerville © 2002 Brisbane Rainforest Action & Information Network. [http://www.brisrain.webcentral.com.au/old\\_site/database/Diplo\\_australis.htm](http://www.brisrain.webcentral.com.au/old_site/database/Diplo_australis.htm) (Accessed 31/1/08)

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