

LOCAL COASTAL PLANTS



*Local native plants
found in the dunes of the
City of Charles Sturt.*

AN Introduction

This brochure is an indication of some of the native plants found in the dunes of the City of Charles Sturt.

It is not an exhaustive list, but contains representative plants that fill different niches; groundcovers, climbers, small and large shrubs.

The plants selected are well adapted to their environment (low maintenance/drought tolerant) and are recommended as garden plants along the coastal strip.

This information has been adapted from Vegetation Management Plans that have been completed for the City of Charles Sturt by the Department for Environment and Heritage.

These Plans are all available on Council's website <http://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au>.

For further information please contact the City of Charles Sturt Coastal Officer on 8408 1111.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the team at the Department for Environment & Heritage for producing the Vegetation Management Plans for the City of Charles Sturt.

Special thanks also to the photographers responsible for these wonderful photos, including **Simon Cordingly, Ben Moulton and Ron Sandercock.**



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Native Coastal Plants of the City of Charles Sturt



Acacia cupularis
Cup Wattle

Family: LEGUMINOSAE

Description: Bushy shrub to 2m high and 4-6m wide. Leaves are narrow to 7cm in length. Flowers deep yellow, globular.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Bird and insect attracting. Nitrogen fixing.

Uses in Landscape: Screening plant. Large garden beds. Full-sun.



Acacia longifolia ssp. sophorae
Coastal Wattle

Family: LEGUMINOSAE

Description: Large spreading shrub to 3m and 5m wide. Leaves obovate to 10cm in length by 3-4cm wide. Flowers yellow, rod shaped.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Very good habitat species for larger mammals and birds. Nitrogen fixing.

Uses in Landscape: Screening plant. Large backdrop species. Large garden beds. Full-sun.



Adriana quadripartita
Rare Bitterbush

Family: EUPHORBIACEAE

Description: Medium spreading shrub 1-2m high by 1-2m wide. Leaves are opposite, dark green and glossy above, white beneath. Leaf margins are toothed.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Difficult to establish in dune environments.

Uses in Landscape: Low screening plant. Unique, attractive flowers. Large garden beds. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Alyxia buxifolia - Sea Box

Family: APOCYNACEAE

Description: Woody medium shrub 2m high by 3m wide. Leaves paired, thick, dark green and shiny on top. Flowers in groups. Petals have a lopsided 'windmill' appearance, waxy white.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Long lived plant, useful for revegetation projects. Seeds are dispersed by birds such as silvereyes (*Zosterops* spp.).

Uses in Landscape: Screening plant. Large garden beds. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Atriplex cinerea - Grey Saltbush

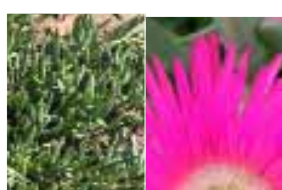
Family: CHENOPODIACEAE

Description: Spreading shrub to 1.5m high. Leaves are thin, grey-green with shiny scaly patches, narrow to ovate in shape. Male flowers are yellow and clustered at the ends of stems. Female flowers are green and occur along the stem.

Location in the Dune System: Tolerates foredune conditions.

Habitat and Ecology: Bird attracting.

Uses in Landscape: Low screening plant. Large garden beds. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Carpobrotus rossii - Native Pigface

Family: AIZOACEAE

Description: Thick fleshy, ground-running plant. Leaves triangular in cross section. Flowers have hundreds of pink 'petals' that are white at the base.

Location in the Dune System: Highly adaptable plant that will grow in most areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Fruits are edible. Flowers provide nectar for a range of insects. Soil stabiliser.

Uses in Landscape: Attractive groundcover. Small to large gardens. Full-sun.



Dianella brevicaulis - Short-stem Flax-lily

Family: LILIACEAE

Description: Small clumping plant to shin high. Leaves blue-green, stiff and strap-like. Flowers occur on wiry branched stalks within foliage line. Flowers blue.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Edible fruits.

Uses in Landscape: Attractive for borders, mass planting, small groups, pots, indoor, small to large gardens. Full-sun to shade.



Disphyma crassifolium var. clavellatum Round-leaf Pigface

Family: AIZOACEAE

Description: Fleshy ground-hugging plant. Leaves round in cross-section. Flowers bright pink.

Location in the Dune System: Prefers heavier soils.

Habitat and Ecology: Fruits are edible.

Uses in Landscape: Attractive small groundcover that is also effective in pots, hanging baskets and small to large gardens. Full-sun.



Enchylaena tomentosa - Ruby Saltbush

Family: CHENOPODIACEAE

Description: Low shrub to 1m high by 1.5m wide. Leaves blue-green, small, fleshy and cylindrical. Flowers are insignificant. Fruit is fleshy and berry-like. Berries predominantly yellow to red.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Attracts birds, lizards and insects, edible fruit.

Uses in Landscape: Groundcover, small shrub. Full-sun to semi-shade.





Helichrysum leucopsideum
Satin Everlasting

Family: COMPOSITAE

Description: Erect perennial herb 15-50cm high. Stems are purple-brown, smooth, wiry. Leaves woolly with a white underside. Flowers are white, 25-35mm in diameter.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and rear dunes where moisture levels are higher and there is greater protection from winds and salt.

Habitat and Ecology: Seeds are eaten by ants and other insects. Flowers are insect pollinated.

Uses in Landscape: Can be used in low drifts. Small gardens.



Isolepis nodosa - Knobby Club-rush

Family: CYPERACEAE

Description: Perennial rush growing up to 1.5m high. Leaves are reed-like and cylindrical, dark green with a sharp tip. Fruiting head is a spiky ball below the tip of the leaf.

Location in the Dune System: Grows throughout the dunes to the rear of the foredune. Prefers the moist environment of swales.

Habitat and Ecology: Very important for sand stability.

Uses in Landscape: Useful accent plant, group plantings, pots, birdbaths. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Kennedia prostrata
Running Postman

Family: LEGUMINOSAE

Description: Ground-hugging perennial with runners extending up to 2 metres. Flowers, prominent red peas 2.0-2.5cm long with a striking yellow centre occur in spring. Fruit is an oblong-ovoid leathery pod growing up to 4cm long.

Habitat and Ecology: Important food source for fauna.

Uses in Landscape: Attractive groundcover. Can be used in small to large garden pots. Prefers light shade.



Kunzea pomifera - Muntries

Family: MYRTACEAE

Description: Prostrate shrub, with spreading branches over several metres. Leaves bright green, thick, to 5mm long. Flowers are white, fluffy and borne in terminal clusters. Fruit is a purple berry approximately 1cm in size.

Location in the Dune System: Found in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Fruits are edible. Fruits attract birds and lizards, Small insects and ants.

Uses in Landscape: Groundcover. Pots, hanging baskets. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Lepidosperma gladiatum
Coastal Sword Sedge

Family: CYPERACEAE

Description: Stems are rigid, up to 1m high by 2cm wide, with sharp edges. Spikelet, pale brown to 15cm. Seed is located within an ovate shaped nut, 2mm long by 1mm wide, brown.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Uses in Landscape: Good accent plant. Foliage contrast. Borders. Pots.



Leucophyta brownii
Coast Cushion Bush

Family: COMPOSITAE

Description: A compact, rounded shrub to 1m high and wide. Branches are silver-grey and mesh-like. Flowers are compact, globular, pale yellow balls of florets 1-1.5mm across. Seed (achenes) 1-2mm long and attached to the pappus, with numerous bristles at the base.

Habitat and Ecology: Important habitat plant for insects and small skinks.

Uses in Landscape: The structural form makes it popular in garden settings.



Leucopogon parviflorus
Coast Beard-heath

Family: EPACRIDACEAE

Description: Densely foliated, upright shrub to 2m high and 5m wide. Leaves thick, oblong, 3cm long and tapering to a pointed tip. Clusters of white flowers are arranged in spikes at the end of branches. Fruit is round and less than 1cm across. Fruit is initially green, changing to bright white upon maturity.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Edible fruit. Attracts a range of flora and fauna.

Uses in Landscape: Medium shrub, screen, bird attracting. Full-sun. Hardy.



Lotus australis - Australian Trefoil

Family: LEGUMINOSAE

Description: Perennial herb to 30cm. Rosy pink to white pea-like flowers occur in clusters of 3-8 on stalks longer than the leaves with three leaflets just under the flowers. Seed pods terete in shape 50mm long by 4mm wide. Seed round in shape 2mm in size, dark brown in colour. Up to 15 seeds per pod.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Attracts birds and insects.

Uses in Landscape: One of the more colourful local plants. Useful for small garden, pots and hanging baskets. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Melaleuca lanceolata - Dryland Tea-tree

Family: MYRTACEAE

Description: Dryland Tea-tree is influenced by local conditions; in coastal areas it is a densely foliated shrub. Leaves are dark green, small, 0.5-1cm long, lance-shaped and oppositely arranged up the stem. Rough bark. Attractive cream to white 'bottle-brush' flowers occur along the stem.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in the rear dunes where conditions are more stable and protected.

Habitat and Ecology: Bird attracting.

Uses in Landscape: Large gardens. Structural plant. Large screening.



Muehlenbeckia gunnii - Coastal Climbing Lignum

Family: POLYGONACEAE

Description: Climbing plant twining onto nearby shrubs or trees. Leaves round to egg-shaped with crisped edge. Flowers small, waxy, yellow-green, five petals, to about 5mm diameter. Fruit is yellow with a black nut.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and the hind dune.

Habitat and Ecology: The fruit is a source of food for lizards and birds. Its scrambling nature over other plants provides valuable habitat.

Uses in Landscape: Twiner, pots. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Myoporum insulare
Common Boobialla

Family: MYOPORACEAE

Description: Large shrub to small tree up to 5m. Leaves thick and fleshy to 7cm, light-green. Flowers have five petals and are white with purple spots. Fruit is succulent, ripening to a bluish-purple at maturity.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Bird attracting.

Uses in Landscape: Large shrub to small tree, screening plant. Full-sun.



Nitraria billardierei - Nitre Bush

Family: ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

Description: Medium to large, dense, spreading shrub up to 3m high, sometimes spiny. Leaves flat, glaucous and partially succulent. Flowers, white with five petals, up to 4mm in length. Fruits are a drupe 1.5cm in diameter. Green, ripening through to red or purple. Seed (endocarp) is a hard woody pip 5-7mm in length, pale brown in colour, surface pitted, pale lemon-like seed within.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Edible fruit, bird attracting.

Uses in Landscape: Large gardens. Full-sun.



Olearia axillaris - Coast Daisy-bush

Family: COMPOSITAE

Description: Medium shrub to 3m. Leaves dark-green or bluish above, white underneath. Flowers daisy-like, crowded along stems in the axils, whitish to dull.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas. Grows from the rear of the foredune to the hind dunes.

Habitat and Ecology: A primary coloniser and key habitat plant in the dune environment. Seed is eaten by several bird and insect species.

Uses in Landscape: Rounded shrub will cope with clipping. Medium to large gardens, screen plant, foliage contrast. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Pelargonium australe
Native Pelargonium

Family: GERANIACEAE

Description: Perennial herb to 50cm high. Stems and leaves have a velvety texture. Leaves are ovate, growing to 9cm in length. Leaf edges wrinkled. Flowers pale pink with purple stripes.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Birds and insect attracting.

Uses in Landscape: One of the more colourful local plants. Useful in small gardens and pots. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Pimelea serpyllifolia ssp. serpyllifolia - Thyme Riceflower

Family: THYMELAEACEAE

Description: Erect shrub to 1.5m tall. In exposed environments its form is stunted or prostrate. Stem leaves 1.5cm long, 2-4mm wide. Flowers 4mm long with four green-yellow petals fused into a short tube. Flowers grouped in small clusters.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Insects and butterflies frequent this species.

Uses in Landscape: Useful small, hardy shrub in any garden. Rounded form.



Rhagodia candolleana ssp. candolleana - Sea-berry Saltbush

Family: CHENOPODIACEAE

Description: Sprawling shrub approximately 1m high to several metres wide. Leaves alternate, dull green with white underside. Fruits are pale green, ripening through to deep red in late summer to autumn.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Fauna attracting.

Uses in Landscape: Sprawling groundcover for medium to large gardens. Full-sun to semi-shade.



Scaevola crassifolia - Cushion Fanflower

Family: GOODENIACEAE

Description: Spreading robust shrub up to 1.5m high by 2m wide. Leaves broadly ovate to orbicular with slightly serrated edges and up to 4cm long by 1cm wide. Flowers are bright blue, fan shaped. Fruit globose to 3mm.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Habitat provider.

Uses in Landscape: Large groundcover or sprawling shrub, attractive flowers. Full-sun.



Senecio pinnatifolius - Variable Groundsel

Family: COMPOSITAE

Description: Branched herb to 80cm high and 75cm wide. Leaves are bright-green divided into lobes and usually fleshy (sometimes almost flat). Bright yellow, composite flowers (daisy).

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Pioneer plant which readily germinates in dunes.

Uses in Landscape: One of the more colourful native plants. Useful in small gardens and pots. Plant in drifts. Full-sun to semi shade.



Spinifex hirsutus - Rolling Spinifex

Family: POACEAE

Description: Creeping plant with stout stems. Leaves are hairy. Leaf sheaths swollen at the base.

Location in the Dune System: Grows along the foredune and occasionally, to the rear dune.

Habitat and Ecology: Primary dune forming plant and sand binder. Will tolerate mobile sand.

Uses in Landscape: Groundcover in coastal gardens. Full-sun. Can become straggly and unruly.



Tetragonia implexicoma - Bower Spinach

Family: AIZOACEAE

Description: Large scrambling plant, climbing onto nearby shrubs. Leaves large, fleshy and thick. Flowers are small, to about 1cm, white, with four petals. Fruit is a red to blackish berry.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Food source for lizards and birds. Provides valuable habitat for fauna.

Uses in Landscape: Groundcover or scrambling plant.



Threlkeldia diffusa
Coast Bonefruit

Family: CHENOPODIACEAE

Description: Small shrub to 20cm high. Leaves club-shaped, fleshy, often with a purple tinge. Flowers are insignificant. Fruit is a fleshy, oval reddish or purple berry with a hard bony centre.

Location in the Dune System: Grows in protected swales and hind dune areas.

Habitat and Ecology: Food source for birds, lizards and insect species.

Uses in Landscape: Small groundcover. Full-sun.

