

Native Vegetation Insectaries (NVI) Choosing a site



Getting started

Native vegetation insectaries (NVI) provide nectar and habitat for beneficial insects, as well as broader biodiversity benefits that contribute to environmental assurance.

This factsheet series will provide the “how to” information you need to construct an NVI.

Plant selection

Plant selection is based on site requirements such as area, slope, proximity to infrastructure, and the functional outcomes you want to achieve from the NVI (e.g., biosecurity hedge = prickly species, dam retaining walls = groundcover species and wildflowers, windbreak = shrubs).

Site selection

NVIs on vegetable farms are best suited to dam banks, which often host weeds and, due to their steep sides, can be prone to rill erosion. This eroded sediment is often transported into waterways and can impact waterway health if it carries nutrient loads.

Other suitable sites to consider include grass strips, fence lines, and windbreaks. Using prickly native plants can create a biosecurity hedge to prevent access to crop areas. Creeks and remnant areas of vegetation can be enhanced with suitable species.

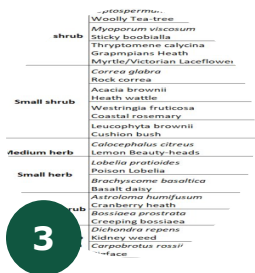
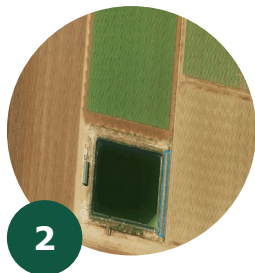
NVI plantings should be within 50 meters of crops and, if possible, create a biolink to nearby native vegetation.



Image: NVI planted outside a dam retaining bank, Werribee South.

Fact Sheet 1
Choosing a NVI site on vegetable farms

How to get started




	<i>Myoporum laetifolium</i>
	Woolly Tea-tree
	<i>Myoporum laetifolium</i>
	Slippery bush
shrub	<i>Thyridopteryx tenax</i>
	Thyridopteryx tenax
	Myrtle/Victorian Laceflower
	<i>Correa glabra</i>
	Correa glabra
	Rock correa
	<i>Acacia brownii</i>
	Acacia brownii
	Heath wattle
Small shrub	<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>
	Westringia fruticosa
	Coastal rosemary
	<i>Leucophaea brownii</i>
	Leucophaea brownii
	Cushion bush
	<i>Calcephalus citreus</i>
	Lemon Beauty heads
Ardium herb	<i>Lobelia prostrata</i>
	Lobelia prostrata
	Poison Lobelia
	<i>Brachycome basaltica</i>
	Basalt daisy
	<i>Astroloane humifusum</i>
	Cranberry heath
	<i>Baccharis prostrata</i>
	Creeping bossiata
	<i>Dichroa repens</i>
	Kidney weed
	<i>Corobrotia rosea</i>
	...face

1. Choose a suitable site, such as a dam retaining wall, fence line, patch of remnant vegetation, or riparian area.
2. Calculate the square metres of the area to be planted.
3. Use the NVI plant list to decide what species are suitable to the planting site (see Factsheet 2).
4. Develop a plan to ensure thorough site preparation.
5. Place an order with a local indigenous plant nursery so they can grow your selection.
6. Take "before" photos of the planting site.

A sample of NVI groundcover plants and small shrubs are planted at E. E. Muirs in Werribee South. Visit the garden bed out front to see some of these plants in flower.

Keep up to date with what's happening

For more information about this project or our other activities please contact Karen Thomas on karen.thomas@melbournewater.com.au or visit <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/farm-biodiversity>



For an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 13 14 50

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