

Choosing Native Insectary Plants



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).

Retaining walls and Escarpments

Retaining walls and escarpments often have steep slopes, making it challenging to plant with tube stock. We have found success by planting groundcovers along the top and across the base, allowing them to grow up or down the slope in their own way.



Groundcover plants

These plants provide dense coverage across the top of your soil, reducing soil loss and preventing sediment from entering waterways. The flowers also provide nectar for beneficial insects.

Shrubs

Planting small shrubs is suitable if you have a larger area that can be mowed or slashed easily to maintain weeds under the shrubs. Groundcovers will also work well under the shrubs.



Image (Left): Planted embankment with *Carpobrotus rossii*, Pigface. Images (Above): Progress of Pigface growing over 2 years.

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Myoporum parvifolium, Creeping Boobialla



Myoporum petiolatum, Sticky Boobialla



Leptospermum continentale, Prickly Tea Tree



Rhagodia candolleana, Seaberry Saltbush

Indigenous nurseries

Plants can be sourced as tube stock from local indigenous nurseries. Most local governments provide a list of nurseries in your area. It is important to place an order several months before you need the plants to ensure the availability of the species you need.

Image (Right): Mature insectary planting outside a fenced dam, featuring a mix of shrubs, wildflowers, and groundcovers.



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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>



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