



# Greening Townsville Program >>



## Fact Sheet

### Why are our local native plants so great?

In the gardens, schools and parks of Townsville, people have planted trees from all over the world. Most are planted because they are valued for their beauty or shade. However, there are some big advantages to planting local native plants. Local native plants are plants that naturally grow in our area and have done, since before European people arrived in the area. So why are they so great?

#### **They are survivors!**

Because local native trees have been growing in our local environment for many years, they can cope with the local conditions. This means they are adapted to:

- The local climate – this includes the temperatures, humidity and rainfall.
- The local plant pests and diseases – introduced plants may be affected by the pests and diseases more than local plants, which have developed ways to cope with these.
- The local soil types – many local soils are quite low in nutrients and are poorly structured. While plants from other places may suffer because of this, local native plants are well suited to these poor soils.

As local plants do not need as much water, fertiliser or pests and disease treatment as introduced plants, less time and money may be needed to keep them healthy.

#### **The locals love em'**

As our city has grown, introduced plants have often replaced our local native plants. This has sometimes meant that the local native birds and animals have also disappeared.

Native animals rely on native plants for various reasons:

- For food – they may eat the seeds, leaves, flowers or fruit of native plants
- For somewhere to live – native animals use local plants for perches, nests and to supply material to construct places to live.

Planting native plants is a way to make our suburbs a more inviting place for our fantastic native animals and birds to live.

#### **They look great!**

The plants of the Townsville region are both unique and beautiful. Besides being able to survive the local conditions and keep the local animals happy - they also look great. By planting local native trees, you are helping to make our city a clean and green place to live.