

Re-establishing your garden after bushfire

Reduce the bushfire risk by planting native,
low-flammable plants around your home.



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources



Where do I start?

Fire is a natural part of the Australian landscape, but it can also have devastating consequences.

If your garden has been destroyed by bushfire it's often difficult to know where to begin, but with the arrival of more favourable weather, now is the perfect time to start planting.

Planning a garden from scratch can be daunting and there are lots of things to consider. This brochure is designed as a starting point, but there are a number of different resources available should you need further assistance. Our website has further information, including planting guidelines.

Preparation

Before you begin, you may need to get burnt trees assessed by an arborist to determine if they are safe.

Bushfires can be beneficial to the soil as they provide potassium, which is an important nutrient for plants. If you are concerned about the quality of your soil, you may also wish to add garden compost, blood and bone and/or gypsum in the case of clay soils. State Flora staff can also advise on soil improvement if any specific requirements are needed.

As bushfires stimulate seed germination for a number of major weed species, this presents an excellent opportunity to manage long term weed control, as otherwise the seed of these species can lie dormant in the soil for many years.

There are also a large number of local native species which germinate in response to fire, including *Ixodia achillaeoides*, *Banksia marginata*, *Kennedia prostrata*, numerous *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus*, and *Hakea* species.

How do I plan my new garden?

When designing any garden, plant species should be selected with rainfall, aspect and soil type prominently in mind. Here are some key points to get you started:

- For dry climates such as ours, consider introducing swales into the design to mitigate natural water flow, keeping more moisture in the garden.

- When planting, utilise a 'water bowl' technique in the soil around the plant to retain rainfall.
- Taller trees should not be planted where they can drop material on houses. Lower branches of trees should be pruned, which can help prevent fire from getting to the canopy.
- Garden areas closest to homes should ideally be irrigated to ensure green foliage with high moisture content, which is fire retarding and has the added benefit of cooling the area around houses, through harsh summers.
- Good maintenance routines, removing deadfall and leaf litter near homes and structures, and regular pruning are all essential.

If in doubt, engaging a landscape gardener to provide expert advice could be beneficial.

What should I plant?

When selecting plants that will be placed near your home always remember to pick species which:

- Are not prone to drying out
- Drop minimal dead material
- Have a high ignition point
- Have a low oil content

Locally native plants should be incorporated where possible to promote biodiversity and provide food and habitat for local fauna. Some local species can actually promote fire, so care should be taken in their selection and placement.

Hedging

These plants can be shaped as a hedge making an attractive dense screen.



Bursaria spinosa
SA Christmas
Bush



Correa calycina
Green Correa



Eremophila spp.
Emu Bush



Myoporum petiolatum
Sticky Boobiella



Rhagodia parabolica
Fragrant
Saltbush

Birds

These plants produce flowers attractive to nectar-feeding birds, or seeds and fruits. To attract insect-eating birds, refer to the beneficial insects list.



Allocasuarina muelleriana
Slaty She-
Oak(Cockatoos)



Allocasuarina striata
Small Bull
Oak(Cockatoos)



Allocasuarina verticillata
Drooping
She-Oak
(Cockatoos)



Anigozanthos
spp. Kangaroo
Paw (Nectar
Eating Birds)



Banksia marginata Silver
Banksia (Nectar
Eating Birds,
Cockatoos)



Correa calycina Green
Correa(Nectar
Eating Birds)



Correa glabra
var *turnbulli*
Rock Correa
(Nectar Eating
Birds)



Enchylaena tomentosa Ruby
Saltbush (Seed
Eating Birds)



Eremophila
spp. Emu Bush
(Nectar Eating
Birds)

Beneficial Insects

These plants encourage a population of beneficial insects, including native wasps that prey on pests, Blue Banded Bees, butterflies and others.



Bursaria spinosa
SA Christmas
Bush



Goodenia ovata
Hop Goodenia



Hardenbergia violacea Native
Lilac



Myoporum parvifolium
Creeping
Boobialla



Pelargonium australe Native
Geranium



Rhagodia spinescens
Fragrant
Saltbush



Scaevola albida
Fanflower



Scaevola 'Mauve Clusters'
Fanflower



Senna spp.
Desert Cassia

Climbers

These plants will climb up supporting structures. Care should be taken to keep these away from dwellings.



Hardenbergia violacea 'Happy Wanderer'
Climbing Lilac



Hibbertia scandens
Snake Vine



Muehlenbeckia adpressa
Climbing
Lignum



Pandorea spp.
Wonga Wonga
Vine

Windbreaks

These plants can be used as, or incorporated into, an effective windbreak. When planting a large windbreak where irrigation isn't possible, extra care should be taken with plant maintenance.



Acacia melanoxylon
Blackwood



Allocasuarina muelleriana
Slaty She-Oak



Allocasuarina striata Small
Bull Oak



Allocasuarina verticillata
Drooping She-Oak



Atriplex nummularia Old
Man Saltbush



Banksia marginata Silver
Banksia



Myoporum insulare
Boobiolla



Senna spp.
Desert Cassia

Shade Creating

These plants create canopy and provide shade. Consider removing low-hanging branches and limiting understorey height.



Acacia melanoxylon
Blackwood



Allocasuarina verticillata
Drooping
She-Oak



Angophora costata
Smooth-Barked
Apple



Brachychiton acerifolius
Flame Tree



Cupaniopsis anacardioides
Tuckeroo



Hymenosporum flavum
Native
Frangiapani



Lophostemon confertus
Queensland
Brush Box



Senna spp.
Desert Cassia

Groundcovers

These plants are low-growing to prostrate groundcovers, good for greening up large areas quickly.



Atriplex semibaccata
Berry Saltbush



Carpobrotus rossii
Karkalla



Disphyma crassifolium
Pigface



Einadia nutans
Climbing
Saltbush



Enchylaena tomentosa
Ruby Saltbush



Kennedia prostrata
Running
Postman



Myoporum parvifolium
Creeping
Boobiella



Pelargonium australe
Native
Geranium

STATE FLORA

Adelaide's largest range of native plants

BELAIR NURSERY

Upper Sturt Road, Belair
Mon–Fri: 9 am to 5 pm
Sat – Sun: 10 am to 5 pm
T: 8278 7777

MURRAY BRIDGE NURSERY

Bremer Road, Murray Bridge
Mon–Fri: 8 am to 4.30 pm
Sun: 10 am to 4 pm
T: 8539 2105

