

Growing a sustainable garden

Peet Limited is committed to creating sustainable communities and encourages residents to take a similar approach when landscaping their gardens.

Grow native

Growing a variety of native trees and shrubs can benefit your garden in a number of ways. Native plants are well adapted to local conditions, thriving naturally and requiring less water. They bring vibrant colours and textures to your garden while, at the same time, protecting the environment. Indigenous trees and shrubs also provide an important source of food for local wildlife, encouraging birds, insects and other species to visit your backyard.

A number of native trees and shrubs are suited to the local environment including:

Sallee Wattle (*acacia floribunda*) – a long living evergreen tree with pale yellow flowers.

Bangalow Palm (*archontophoenix cunninghamiana*) – a long drooping fronds; will grow up to 5 metres tall.

NSW Christmas Bush (*ceratopetalum gummiferum*) – an evergreen shrub that displays colourful red bract.

Native Fuschia (*correa lawrenceana*) – a small size shrub with red tubular bell shaped flowers which attracts honeyeaters.



Water saving tips for your garden

By planting native trees and shrubs and following the tips below, you can reduce your garden's water consumption by up to 40%!

- Group plants with similar water needs in specific areas. Use taller, hardier plants to protect smaller ones and use drought resistant plants to reduce watering needs.
- Good soil holds water better than poor quality soil so it's important to prepare soil before planting with organic material and water-saving granules.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch! A good layer of mulch is a fantastic water saver as it reduces evaporation, discourages weed growth, prevents erosion and evens out soil temperature variations.
- Water wisely – it's best to water in the early morning or late evening when it is cooler. Make sure you stick to local watering restrictions or rosters.
- Check for leaks or problems with your irrigation system, and adjust requirements according to seasonal needs.

Did you know ...

- The term 'native plant' refers to any plant that occurs and grows naturally in a specific region or locality.
- More than 20,000 native plant species have been identified in Australia.
- The **waratah**, *telopea speciosissima*, is the **state flower** of New South Wales.