

PLANTS OF THE LOCAL REGION TO ENHANCE HABITAT FOR REVEGETATION PROJECTS.

BACKGROUND: 'Two hundred years ago Silver Banksia, Drooping Sheoak, Wild Cherry Ballart, and Lightwood and Blackwood formed extensive woodlands across many parts of S. E. Australia' ¹

Clearing of native vegetation and the lack of regeneration (due to rabbit and stock browsing) has resulted in the loss of these trees over widespread areas.

These trees provide specific foods and resources for insects, birds and mammals; birds such as Grey-Crowned Babblers, Hooded Robins and Varied Sittellas, (now all declining), were historically noted using Silver Banksias and Sheoaks. ²

The enhancement of habitat quality is as necessary as the reversal of ecosystem fragmentation in order to reverse the decline of woodland birds and mammals.

Restoration of these native plant species in woodland ecosystems will improve habitat quality.

PLANT SPECIES TABLE:

The following list is suggested to enhance revegetation projects. These shrubs and trees will increase ecosystem complexity by providing a sub-canopy layer above the low shrub layer. This greater shrub diversity will increase nesting sites and cover for predator protection.

Greater diversity also increases food resources for nectar feeding insects (and the birds that feed on them) and food for nectar feeding birds and mammals.

¹ Lunt, Ian. Forgotten woodlands, future landscapes (13/10/2013) www.ianluntecology.com ² As above

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	BACKGROUND	FLOWERING TIME
Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i> Mimosaceae	Common along watercourses and higher rainfall areas. Frost resistant. Small to medium-sized tree (to 8m)	August - September
Lightwood	<i>Acacia implexa</i> Mimosaceae	Occurs in rocky areas and woodlands. Drought and frost resistant. Adaptable to most soils. Small tree.	January - March
Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> Mimosaceae	Frost resistant. Medium sized tree (3 – 12m)	July - October
Buloke	<i>Allocasuarina luehamanni</i> Casuarinaceae	Old casuarinas with hollows and cracks are important nest and den trees for parrots and bats (which eat moths, beetles and other insects). Buloke trees provide critical feeding habitat for endangered Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Buloke is depleted in Victoria. Drought and frost resistant and very hardy. Tree to 15m	Summer

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	BACKGROUND	FLOWERING TIME
Drooping Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> Casuarinaceae	Drought, frost and wind resistant. Useful fodder plant and for shade and shelter. Tree to 8m	December - March
Silver Banksia	<i>Banksia marginata</i> Proteaceae	Widespread geographically and abundant in Victoria before European settlement. Now severely depleted in Western Victoria. Flowers provide pollen and nectar for nectar feeding insects, nectar feeding birds and mammals. Grows on a range of soils. Prime importance for reintroduction along watercourses and in woodlands. Shrub to larger tree (to 7m)	December - January
Sweet Bursaria	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> Pittosporaceae	Important food plant for native insects, including beetles. Scented creamy flower are five-pointed stars and grow in clusters. Supports Notoconus ants which are obligate for Eltham Copper Butterfly. Shrub to small tree (to 6m)	December - January
Wedge- leaf and Spoon-leaf Hop-bushes	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> subspecies <i>cuneata</i> and <i>spatulata</i> Sapindaceae	Hopbushes can form thickets in openings in eucalypt canopy and are used by woodland birds eg Honeyeaters, for food cover and nesting. Hopbush leaves are eaten by a wide variety of insects (and wallabies). Drought and frost resistant. Shrubs to 3m	June - November
Bush Needlewood	<i>Hakea decurrens</i> Proteaceae	An important source of flowering during winter, this shrub is used as cover by small birds and reptiles. Drought and frost resistant. Shrub to 5m	May - September
Totem-poles	<i>Melaleuca decussata</i> Myrtaceae	Melaleucas can form dense thickets which are used by woodland birds for cover and nesting. Drought and frost resistant. Shrub to 4m	November - February
Moonah	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i> Myrtaceae	Flowers attract a vast range of insects, especially predatory wasps, native bees. Drought, frost and saline resistant. Useful for shelter belts. Tree to 6m	October – February
Weeping Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i> Pittosporaceae	Occurs in most woodland communities on grey clays to red sands. Very hardy and drought resistant. Useful for windbreaks and foliage is eaten by stock. Shrub or small tree to 6m	Late Winter - Spring