

Significant plants to Ngunnawal

Brachychiton populneus

Kurrajong

Ngunnawal call this plant *Gurradjong* and it is an important source of food, fibre and water. Water is sourced from the tree roots and young shoots can be eaten roasted or raw. The jelly sap can also be eaten. String and rope made from bark is used in nets, fishing lines and dilly bags.



Microseris lanceolata

Yam Daisy

Ngunnawal call this plant *Dharaban*. The edible tubers can be eaten raw or roasted. This plant is a staple food source for Aboriginal people from south-eastern Australia.



Melaleuca linariifolia

Paperbark

Ngunnawal call this plant *Mudda*. The young leaves can be bruised and soaked in water to make a liquid to treat colds and headaches.



Inidgofera australis

Austral Indigo

Used as fish poison, leaves and roots are crushed and added to pools of water to stun and disable fish. Flowers used as a dye.



Rubus moluccanus

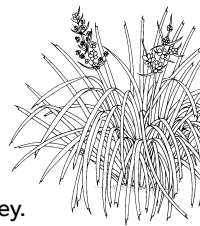
Native Raspberry

The sweet fruit is eaten from the bush when ripe in summer.

Lomandra longifolia

Spiny-headed Mat-rush

The white leaf base can be chewed as a sweet, starchy food. Leaves are used for weaving baskets mats, string and fish traps. Roots are used to treat bites and stings. Seeds are ground into flour and mixed with honey.



Dicksonia antarctica

Soft Tree Fern

The white pith from within the trunk can be eaten raw or cooked and young fronds can also be eaten. The fronds can also be used to build temporary shelter.

About Ngunnawal

The Australian National Botanic Gardens acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians (past and present) of the land at the base of Mulii Gugirigar (Black Mountain) upon which the Gardens were established.

The Ngunnawal Nation is made up of various family groups and each group is responsible for caring for certain parts of the country. Ngunnawal people have maintained a strong connection to country and through a living culture they have knowledge of the land and its resources including the use of plants for food, medicine, tools and weapons, and ceremonial practice.

Ngunnawal people use natural resources from the country around them to survive. The land is their "supermarket" as it provides all that is needed for survival and they continue to use water, rocks, animals, and plants (leaves, berries, roots, sap, tubers and bark).

Through exploring the Aboriginal Plant Use Trail we aim to share a part of the cultural knowledge of Aboriginal people including Ngunnawal people, particularly in relation to plant use in order to celebrate the importance of preserving the intellectual property and knowledge of Aboriginal peoples across Australia.

Information used to develop this brochure was sourced from Ngunawal Plant Use which was developed by Ngunawal Traditional Custodians in partnership with Greening Australia and the ACT Government.

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Clunies Ross Street, Acton ACT 2601

Open 8.30 am – 5.00 pm daily (closed Christmas Day)

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Aboriginal Plant Use Trail



Alive with *discovery*

Discover a selection of plants and some of the ways they were used by Aboriginal people



Australian National Botanic Gardens



Aboriginal Plant Use Trail



First Nations cultures of Australia trace back to the oldest living cultural history in the world. First Nations peoples' knowledge of plant use, such as an ability to identify and locate edible and useful plants, has been critical to their survival.

The trail at the Gardens is one way that this knowledge can be shared and appreciated.

The Aboriginal Plant Use Trail highlights a selection of plants and some of the ways that these were used by Aboriginal people in different parts of Australia. Similar plants may have been used for the same purposes in other areas, depending on local availability.

Look at the different plants along the trail and see if you can tell which parts were eaten or used medicinally, or which could have been used for fibre.

Many of the food-producing plants bear their fruits for short periods of the year only. Thus the part of the plant that is used will not always be present.

Information for the Aboriginal Plant Use trail was obtained from published sources.

PLEASE DO NOT PICK OR EAT THE PLANTS

- 1 *Citrus australasica* – Finger lime
- 2 *Banksia* species – Banksia
- 3 *Santalum acuminatum* – Quandong
- 4 *Eucalyptus* species
- 5 *Eustrephus latifolius* – Wombat Berry
- 6 *Melaleuca cuticularis* – Paperbark
- 7 *Eremophila* species – Emu Bush
- 8 *Brachychiton rupestris* – Bottle Tree
- 9 *Casuarina* and *Allocasuarina* species – She-oak
- 10 *Indigofera australis* – Austral Indigo
- 11 *Microseris lanceolata* – Yam Daisy
- 12 *Acacia aneura* – Mulga
- 13 *Brachychiton populneus* – Kurrajong
- 14 *Xanthorrhoea* species – Grass Tree
- 15 *Triodia scariosa* – Porcupine Grass/Spinifex
- 16 *Doryanthes excelsa* – Gymea Lily
- 17 *Podocarpus elatus* – Plum Pine
- 18 *Dianella species* – Flax Lily
- 19 *Dodonaea viscosa* – Sticky Hop Bush
- 20 *Callitris* species – Native Cypress Pine
- 21 *Persoonia pinifolia* – Geebung
- 22 *Backhousia citriodora* – Lemon Myrtle
- 23 *Macrozamia* species – Burrawang
- 24 *Rubus moluccanus* – Native Raspberry
- 25 *Hibiscus heterophyllus* – Native Rosella
- 26 *Syzygium australe* – Lilly Pilly
- 27 *Araucaria bidwillii* – Bunya Pine
- 28 *Acacia melanoxylon* – Blackwood
- 29 *Tasmania insipida* – Pepper Tree
- 30 *Hedycarya angustifolia* – Austral Mulberry
- 31 *Dicksonia antarctica* – Soft Tree Fern

