

Bird-Friendly planting list

Native Shrubs for Bird Habitat

List of a selection of small to medium-large shrubs that provide good protection for small birds and winter flowering to provide a more even spread of food resources across the year.

1. **Correa** **reflexa** (Common Correa)
Tubular red to pink flowers with green tips that bloom May to November. Grows to 1.5m with attractive dark green elliptical leaves. Well suited to a variety of soil types and tolerates frost.
2. **Acacia** **pravissima** (Ovens Wattle)
A dense shrub or small tree to 6m, with distinctive triangular phyllodes and bright yellow globular flower heads appearing in late winter to early spring. Thrives in well-drained soils and can withstand frost, drought, and dappled shade.
3. **Acacia** **paradoxa** (Kangaroo Thorn)
A dense, hardy medium shrub to 4m, full of long spines. Flowers August and October.
4. **Hakea** **sericea** (Bushy Needlewood)
Grows to 3m, with needle-like leaves and clusters of white to pink flowers that bloom in winter. Prefers well-drained soils and can handle frost. Flowers attract insect pollinators.
5. **Leptospermum** **continentale** (Prickly Tea-tree)
A dense shrub to 2m with small, sharp-tipped leaves and white to pink flowers blooming late autumn to winter. Well suited to sandy or clay soils and frost tolerant.
6. **Prostanthera** **rotundifolia** (Round-leaved Mint Bush) ■
Aromatic shrub to about 2m with round dark green leaves and mauve to purple flowers from late autumn to winter. Prefers well-drained soils, frost tolerant, and can attract Noisy Miners.
7. **Grevillea** **rosmarinifolia** (Rosemary Grevillea) ■
A low spreading shrub 1 to 2m with narrow rosemary-like leaves. Produces red or pink spider-like flowers from late autumn to winter. Can proliferate and attract Noisy Miners but provides good protection for small birds due to prickly leaf tips.
8. **Callistemon** **sieberi** (River Bottlebrush)
Hardy shrub to 3m with narrow leaves and cream to yellow flower spikes in late autumn to winter. Adaptable to various soil types, tolerant of frost and poorly drained soils.
9. **Correa** **alba** (White Correa)
Compact shrub to 1.5m with grey-green leaves and white winter flowers. Tolerates coastal exposure, poor soils, and low maintenance conditions.
10. **Correa** **glabra** (Rock Correa)
Upright shrub to 2m with green to yellow tubular flowers in autumn and winter. Adaptable to rocky or well-drained soils; handles frost and drought.

11. **Rhagodia** **spinescens** (Spiny Saltbush)
Dense mounding shrub to 1.5m with silvery foliage. Excellent for shelter and soil stabilisation. Grows in saline, dry, or poor soils.
12. **Grevillea** **lanigera** (Woolly Grevillea) ■
Low shrub to 1.5m with fine foliage and red and cream flowers from autumn to spring. Provides dense cover and thrives in a range of soils.
13. **Bursaria** **spinosa** (Native Blackthorn)
Tall spiny shrub to 4m with white summer flowers. Attracts insects and offers strong protective structure. Tolerates dry and frosty conditions.
14. **Acacia** **genistifolia** (Winter Wattle)
Rigid prickly shrub to 2m with pale yellow winter flowers. Hardy, low maintenance, and provides excellent cover in dry, well-drained soils.

Any of the more idiosyncratic heaths – e.g., **Peach Heath**, **Urn Heath**, **Cryptandra** spp.

■ These are particularly nectar rich plants that should, if used, be planted only sparsely so as not to encourage colonising by aggressive honeyeaters such as Noisy Miners and Red Wattlebirds.

Native Grasses, Forbs & Vines for Birds

The following readily available native grasses (in tubestock, which can be ordered from various nurseries. See Resources for Planting), provide valuable shelter and food resources for ground-foraging species. Most have root systems either rhizomatous or dense bunches that help stabilise soils including on slopes and dam walls.

Grasses

1. ***Microlaena stipoides*** (Weeping Grass)
Rhizomatous. Excellent ground cover and soil stabiliser.
2. ***Themeda triandra*** (Kangaroo Grass)
Primarily a bunchgrass with some rhizomes. Well-known for its bright seed heads.
3. ***Rytidosperma* spp.** (Wallaby Grass)
Mostly bunchgrasses with some rhizomatous species. Adaptable and good for habitat.
4. ***Panicum effusum*** (Hairy Panic)
Rhizomatous. Seeds are popular with birds and it thrives on slopes.
5. ***Poa sieberiana*** (Snow Poa)
Bunchgrass with dense roots. Provides seeds and shelter.
6. ***Rytidosperma pallidum*** (Red-anthered Wallaby Grass)
Forms dense tussocks. Ideal for stabilising poor soils.

These forbs and vines provide important shelter, food, and nesting opportunities for a variety of bird species.

Forbs

7. ***Chrysocephalum semipapposum*** (Clustered Everlasting Daisy)
Clumps create excellent habitat.
8. ***Dianella* and *Lomandra* spp.**
Robust understorey plants offering shelter.

Vines

9. ***Hardenbergia violacea*** (Happy Wanderer)
10. ***Clematis leptophylla* or *Clematis aristata*** (Native Clematis)