



Plant a tree

Simply adding a native tree to a safe location in your backyard can provide a home for animals for many decades. Choose one of the below species for maximum biodiversity benefits

Local native trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Two-veined Hickory	8m
<i>Acacia parramattensis</i>	Sydney Green Wattle	5m
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lilly Pilly	8m
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black She-Oak	5m
<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>	Forest-Oak	30m
<i>Angophora costata</i>	Smooth-Barked Apple	25m
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	Rough-Barked Apple	20m
<i>Avicennia marina</i>	Grey Mangrove	4m
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coastal Banksia	10m
<i>Banksia serrata</i>	Old Man Banksia	8m
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Swamp Oak	20m
<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>	Coachwood	20m
<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>	Red Bloodwood	20m
<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>	Blueberry Ash	10m
<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Bangalay	18m
<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i>	Scribbly Gum	15m
<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>	Blackbutt	30m
<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>	Sydney Peppermint	15m
<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>	Grey Gum	30m
<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i>	Red Mahogany	20m
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Swamp Mahogany	30m
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig	15m
<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	Cheese Tree	8m
<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>	Turpentine	20m

How else can I help preserve biodiversity?

Re-use rainwater and greywater

Installing a rainwater tank will save money in the long run and any water used from one is exempt from water restrictions. Similarly, 'greywater', or water recycled from washing machines, sinks and showers, can be re-used to water your garden. Further information on recycling water can be found at www.sydneypwater.com.au

Provide homes for our native animals, big or small

You can help by buying or building an 'insect hotel', owning native bees or simply providing habitat such as logs with woody hollows and leaving water in a protected, shaded location.

A simple insect hotel can be made in a few minutes by cramming hollow sticks such as bamboo and other organic matter like bark and wood cuttings into a weather-proof 'hotel' either made of wood or re-used household objects. Or, simply drill holes of various sizes in logs to provide an instant home for insects!

Alternatively, you can buy cheap and effective insect hotels from various garden centres and hardware stores.



Find out more...

Council's Environment, Sustainability and Waste team hosts many events throughout the year, such as Urban Farmer, Plant Propagation, Composting, Worm-Farming and Beekeeping workshops. Check the What's On page and the Environment pages of Council's website at www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au for more information and regular updates.



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For more information, please contact Council on 9330 6400

Backyard biodiversity guide



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Backyard biodiversity guide





The Georges River area has an abundance of public bushland reserves, native wildlife and over 15,000 large canopy trees.

However, less than 10% of pre-1788 native vegetation remains in our Local Government Area (LGA), with the majority contained within Public Recreation Areas or Low Density Residential Areas. Connecting our existing bio-diverse recreation and bushland areas with residential properties is therefore highly important for wildlife movement.

Our vision

Georges River can be a local government leader in bio-diverse areas, known for its abundance of leafy streets, reserves and private land, where backyards connect to our existing green corridors and add to the biodiversity potential of the area.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is defined as the variety of life on Earth. On a local level we can improve biodiversity by helping our local fauna through habitat provision by planting more native flora, or just creating spaces for animals to call home.



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Why do we need biodiversity in backyards?

Globally, biodiversity is under threat. It is unknown exactly how many species go extinct daily, however estimates put the figure in the dozens.

Locally, urbanisation over the last 200 years has meant rapid and expansive habitat loss across most of our area, especially in the northern suburbs of the LGA, originally home to Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest on mostly shale soils. Of this vegetation, only small pockets remain in Hurstville Grove, Penshurst, Peakhurst and Oatley.

This habitat and the wildlife it supports is critical for a variety of reasons, including;

- creating oxygen
- storing carbon from the air
- filtering water
- pollinating plants
- dispersing seeds

Biodiversity is intricately linked, so if even one species is affected, the delicate balance is disrupted which can lead to broader impacts.

What we can do on a local level

For us, it's as simple as providing spaces for vulnerable species to use, as conserving local populations is the only way to ensure genetic diversity critical for a species' long-term survival. This can mean doing something as little as:

- placing sticks, logs and pots around for ground-dwelling species like lizards
- limiting the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides to help our insect pollinators.
- providing a shaded water source
- creating a simple artificial fish or frog pond with a black plastic base weighed down with natural rocks
- planting native climbers next to fencing or lattice; or
- re-using old household items like wheelbarrows or gumboots as garden features.

Choose locally endemic plants

Locally endemic plants are ones that occur naturally in our local area. Endemic plants are favoured by local fauna, they also require less watering and maintenance. By simply adding some tall, native grasses and dense, native shrubbery you can transform your garden into a biodiverse habitat.

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<i>Acacia falcata</i>	Hickory Leaf Wattle	4m
<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	White Sallow Wattle	4m
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Blackthorn bush	1-2m
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	Gorse bitter-pea	2m
<i>Dillwynia parvifolia</i>	Small Parrot-pea	1m
<i>Dodonea triquetra</i>	Hop Bush	1m
<i>Lasiopetalum parviflorum</i>	Velvet Bush	1m
<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	Everlasting	1m
<i>Persoonia hirsuta</i>	Geebung	1m
<i>Pultenaea villosa</i>	Hairy Bush Pea	1m
<i>Rapanea variabilis</i>	Mutton Wood	3-4m
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Blue Flax Lily	Sedge
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Mauve Flax Lily	Sedge
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Blueberry Lily	Sedge
<i>Echinopogon</i>	Tufted Hedgehog Grass	Grass
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny Mat-rush	Sedge



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