













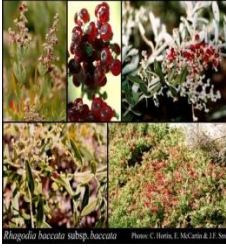









Plants for the Possum Friendly Garden




TREES/TALL SHRUBS	FLOWERS	SOIL	HEIGHT	NOTES/ADVICE	PHOTO
<i>Acacia saligna</i> <i>Acacia cyclops</i> <i>Acacia cochlearis</i> <i>Acacia littorea</i> <i>Acacia myrtifolia</i> (Wattles) ☺	March-May Yellow flowers	Sandy soils	2 – 4m.	SW Local plants. Height varies from small to medium shrubs. Habitat shrubs, provide protection, wrp will sometimes feed from leaves/flowers. Possums will occasionally build nests in wattles. Habit: short lived, plant in clumps in gardens at varying ages. Bird attracting.	
<i>Agonis Flexuosa</i> (W.A. Peppermint) ☺	Sept-Dec White flowers	Sandy soils	6-8 m.	Local SW endemic and iconic tree. Western Ringtail possum food and nests. Plant at least 2 metres away from fences and walls (trunk). Habitat tree and food source. Provides protection from predators. Habit: Weeping tree with white flowers. Endemic to Busselton and surrounds, important landscape amenity tree.	
<i>Callistemon</i> species (Bottlebrushes)☺ Local ones – <i>C. glaucus</i> <i>C. phoeniceus</i> Others varieties appear to be good habitat shrubs	Aug- Mar Red flowers, hybrids come in a range of colours – white, pink, purple	Sandy soils	2-4 m	Local species available, some hybrids also appear to be popular with wrp. Medium shrubs. Good habitat shrubs, wrp sometimes build nests and will occasionally use as a food source. Great for street tree or hedging and privacy along fences. Pruning encourages flowers and density. Bird attracting.	
<i>Eucalyptus</i> tree varieties. e.g. <i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i> - Tuart <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> - Jarrah <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> – Marri <i>Corymbia haematoxylon</i> – Mountain Marri	Variety of colours and times of year	Variety of soils	Various, 5-10m	SW trees. Check with Geographe Community land care nursery for local varieties that suit your individual circumstances. Plant local species where possible, a range of small eucalypt species are available and provide habitat. All provide height from domestic predators and contribute to canopy connectivity if grown near food source shrubs/trees. Mountain Marri – 5m tall, Red flowering Marri – 5m tall. These are good smaller eucalyptus species, flower prolifically and are good as street trees. Bird attracting.	

<p><i>Melaleucas</i> ☺ e.g. <i>Melaleuca nesophila</i> <i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i> <i>Melaleuca preissiana</i> <i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i> <i>Melaleuca lateritia</i> <i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i> <i>Melaleuca huegellii</i> <i>Melaleuca diosmifolia</i> <i>Melaleuca incana</i> – weeping and dwarf – and other varieties SW</p>	<p>Variety of colours and times of year-pinks, reds, whites, green,yellow</p>	<p>Sandy soils</p>	<p>2-5 m</p>	<p>SW and WA shrubs available. Suitable for smaller areas. WRP will build nests and use as protection from predators. Variety of flowers and leaves, which may be palatable to wrp at times. Bird attracting. Most of the Melaleuca species within the SW appear to be utilised by WRP for habitat and travel routes, also to build nests. Although their palatability and nutritional values are unknown. Interplant with Peppermint trees.</p>	
<p><i>Paraserianthes lophthana</i> Albizzia tree</p>	<p>Green/yellow flowers</p>	<p>Sandy to sandy loam soils</p>	<p>5m</p>	<p>SW plant. Prefers wet soils or creekline systems, although can live for a short time in garden situations. A very attractive tree, sparse. Shortlived e.g. 5-10 yrs. Flowers may be attractive to wrp, although these trees should be mixed with Peppermint trees and interplanted with shrubs along fencelines and in gardens. A good specimen tree or verge tree.</p>	
<p><i>Agonis flexuosa</i> nana (dwarf willow peppermint) Burgundy peppermint Variegated peppermint Coastal weeping peppermint☺</p>	<p>White</p>	<p>Sandy soils</p>	<p>1 – 3m</p>	<p>WA Hybrids. Popular plant for hedging, however, can be pruned into a small upright shrub or tree. Popular food source for possums and dense growing habit provides shelter and protection from predators. Different varieties available although nutritional food source values are unknown. Good small garden and verge planting small trees/shrubs.</p>	
<p><i>Callitris preissii</i> (Rottneest Island Pine)</p>	<p>Conifer type plant</p>	<p>Sandy coastal soils</p>	<p>3-4m</p>	<p>WA small upright tree/shrub. WRP have been known to build nests in these for protection. Foliage is dense, thick and provides good protection. Good garden plant, bright green conifer type foliage. Perfect for screening along fencelines. Unsuitable as a food source so should be planted close to peppermint trees.</p>	
<p><i>Callystachys lanceolata</i> (Wonnich)</p>	<p>Yellow flowers</p>	<p>Sandy coastal soils, creeklines</p>	<p>3-5m</p>	<p>Local upright tree/shrub. WRP have been known to build nests in these for protection. They may also utilise the flowers as a food source, although nutritional values unknown. Good garden attractive garden plant, bright green foliage with very attractive yellow pea flowers. Perfect for screening along fencelines. Bird attracting – wattle birds in particular.</p>	





<p><i>Allocasuarina fraseriana</i> (Sheoaks)</p>	<p>Catkins - Brown</p>	<p>Sandy soils, coastal, inland and gravelly sands</p>	<p>5m</p>	<p>Tall upright SW tree. WRP are known to build nests in these trees and have been found to utilise for travel/connection in wildlife corridors and bushland areas. The trees make good upright garden shade trees, they are not known to drop limbs, are hardy and sturdy in windy areas. Good windbreaks. Interplanted with Peppermint trees, they provide a good habitat tree. Not a known food source, although scats are often found underneath these trees on fallen logs.</p>	 <p><i>Allocasuarina fraseriana</i> Photo: L.R. Dixon, A. Inland & K.R. Threlk</p>
<p><i>Banksia grandis</i> <i>Banksia attenuata</i> <i>Banksia littoralis</i></p>	<p>Yellow</p>	<p>Sandy soils, sandy loams, gravelly sands</p>	<p>5-10m</p>	<p>Tall spreading SW trees, compact growth at times. Attractive verge or garden trees. WRP have been known to build nests in these trees for protection and possibly utilise the nectar as a water source. Fodder properties are unknown and unknown nutritional values for wrp. Excellent for Birds and Honey Possums, Pygmy Possums.</p>	 <p><i>Banksia grandis</i> Photo: E.A. George, C. Hord & A. Inland</p>
<p>SHRUBS</p>					
<p><i>Kunzeas</i> <i>Kunzea glabrescens</i> <i>Kunzea recurva</i> <i>Kunzea micrantha</i> ☺</p>	<p>Pink</p>	<p>Sandy soils, gravel soils</p>	<p>1-3m</p>	<p>SW shrubs. Excellent garden specimens, small shrubs and attractive flowers. Upright or compact shrubs for gardens. Can be pruned for hedging. WRP will sometimes build nests in these, flowers may be palatable although should be interplanted with or near peppermint trees. Bird attracting.</p>	 <p><i>Kunzea recurva</i> Photo: W.A. Fisher & E. Neill</p>
<p><i>Beaufortia sparsa</i> <i>Beaufortia squarrosa</i> ☺</p>	<p>Mar-May Red/orange</p>	<p>Sandy soils Gravelly soils Sandy loams</p>	<p>1-3 m</p>	<p>Local plants, excellent for gardens, bird attracting. Interplanted with other wrp habitat plants, provides shelter and possible food source. Interplant with peppermint trees and other shrubs. Bird attracting.</p>	
<p><i>Spyridium globulosum</i> (Basket bush) ☺</p>	<p>June-Sept White</p>	<p>Sandy soils, gravelly soils</p>	<p>2-3m</p>	<p>Local coastal plant. Dense shrub with glossy green leaves. Can tolerate full sun or full shade. New growth and flowers attractive to possums. WRP will often build nests in these shrubs, particularly close to the coast. Easy care, hardy plants, especially for coastal situations. Bird attracting.</p>	
<p><i>Rhagodia baccata</i> Salt Berry Bush</p>	<p>Cream flowers, dark red berries</p>	<p>Sandy soils</p>	<p>1-2m</p>	<p>Local coastal plant. Groundcovering, climbing plant or shrub form. Attractive reddish and green glossy leaves, with cream flowers and dark red berries. WRP will occasionally inhabit in coastal areas where growing with Coastal Sword Sedges. Not a food source, although these plants are utilised for protection, shade and shelter. In natural areas this quite often grows with Coastal Sword Sedges and Basket Bush underneath Peppermint trees, <i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i> and <i>Melaleuca huegellii</i>.</p>	 <p><i>Rhagodia baccata</i> Sibth. & Vaccaro Photo: C. Hord, F. McCann & E. Neill</p>

<p><i>Banksia ilicifolia</i> <i>Banksia sessilis</i></p>	<p>Yellow/pink flowers</p>	<p>Sandy soils, sandy gravel soils</p>	<p>2-4m</p>	<p>Local Banksias, both are small banksias for garden situations. Coastal and inland. These are mainly Honey Possum habitat shrubs and food sources, although WRP have been known to utilise as habitat and will build nests for protection from predators. <i>Banksia coccinea</i> (2m) from Albany region is a very attractive Banksia with bright red flowers, perfect for coastal gardens also. Bird attracting.</p>	
<p><i>Taxandria linearifolia</i> <i>Taxandria parviceps</i> ☺</p>	<p>White</p>	<p>Variety of soils</p>	<p>1-3m</p>	<p>SW ti-trees, grow in coastal situations and along creeklines. In the “peppermint” family, these shrubs have unknown values for WRP. WRP have been known to build nests and may feed from leaves/flowers, although nutritional value is unknown. Bird Attracting.</p>	
<p><i>Adenanthos</i> species Albany Woolly Bush <i>Adenanthos meisneri</i> <i>Adenanthos barbiger</i> <i>Adenanthos obovatus</i></p>	<p>Pinkish or red flowers</p>	<p>Sandy soils, variety of soils</p>	<p>1-2m</p>	<p>SW woolly bushes. The Albany Woolly Bush (2m) will provide shelter for WRP. Some species are groundcovering/spreading shrubs ideal for gardens and native verge plantings, not often exceeding 1m in height. The vegetation is soft and dense, providing suitable protection for wrp when on the ground or travelling. Bird attracting.</p>	
<p><i>Diplolaena damperii</i> (Coastal Rose)</p>	<p>Orange/red flowers</p>	<p>Sandy soils Coastal Gardens</p>	<p>1-2m</p>	<p>SW coastal plant, although does well in garden situations and revegetation. Attractive bright bell flowers, attracts wrp and birdlife. WRP have been seen to build nests in the coastal rose on the coast. Foliage is thick and dense providing protection, flowers may be palatable although nutritional qualities are unknown. Bird attracting.</p>	
<p><i>Boronia alata</i> (Coastal Boronia)</p>	<p>Pink flowers</p>	<p>Sandy soils</p>	<p>1-2m</p>	<p>SW coastal plant, although does well in garden situations and revegetation of wildlife corridors. Attractive pale to deep pink flowers. Scent is unattractive although distinctive. WRP utilise in coastal areas for shelter, protection. Food source is unknown, nutritional value is unknown for wrp. Bird attracting, particularly for blue wrens and honeyeaters.</p>	

STRAP LEAF OR SEDGES

SPECIES	FLOWERS	SOIL	HEIGHT	NOTES/ADVICE	PHOTO
<i>Anigozanthos flavidus</i> (Tall Kangaroo Paw) <i>Anigozanthos viridis</i> <i>Anigozanthos manglesii</i> <i>Anigozanthos hybrids</i>	Aug-Nov Red, yellow Green Red/green	Sandy soils	Straps to 1m, flowers to 2m	SW local plants. Full sun to part shade. Good specimen plants, infill for planting with trees and shrubs. WRP may utilise when on the ground for protection from predators. Bird attracting.	
<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i> <i>Patersonia umbrosa</i> <i>Patersonia pygmaea</i> (Native flags)	Aug-Nov Purple or Yellow	Sand/gravel	0.5-1m	SW local plants. Hardy. Long lasting. Popular garden plant for borders and rockeries. Full sun to part shade. Blends well with native verge plantings and planting with wrp fodder trees/shrubs. WRP may utilise when on the ground for protection. Bird attracting.	
<i>Lepidosperma gladiatum</i> <i>Lepidosperma tetratemon</i> <i>Gahnia trifida</i>	Yellow flowers	Sandy soils Sandy loams Creeklines, Coastal areas	Straps to 1m tall, flowers to 2m tall	SW local plants, particularly for coastal areas and creekline systems. Also thrive in gardens, on verges, plantings under peppermint trees and native shrubs. Restricts weed growth. Provides protection for WRP when on the ground, WRP will at times rest within the sedges during the day and sleep. Not suitable as food source, should be used in plantings with peppermint trees and other native shrubs. Bird Attracting.	

CLIMBERS

<i>Billardiera fusiformis</i> (Australian Bluebell)	Aug-April Blue	Sandy soils Sandy gravel Sandy loams	climber	SW climber/shrub. Pale to bright blue flowers, attractive garden specimens. Produces edible berries after flowering that are attractive to possums. Can be planted within a native verge, underneath peppermint trees or on a lattice/fenceline for privacy and shelter for wrp.	
<i>Clematis pubescens</i> (Old man's Beard)	Aug-Oct White	Sandy soils Sandy gravel Coastal	climber	SW climber. Large white flowers, attractive. Provides dense shelter for possums. Bird attracting – Blue wrens will build nests inside for shelter from predators.	
<i>Hardenbergia comptoniana</i> (Native wisteria)	July-Oct purple	Sandy/gravel	climber	WA climber. Vigorous and fast growing, will travel up tree trunks. Beautiful display throughout winter and early Spring. WRP are known to build nests within the densely vegetated areas of this climber when growing on fencelines or sheds. Unknown values as fooder, best to be planted near peppermint trees and other native shrubs. Good groundcovers for native verges. Bird Attracting – Blue Wrens.	
<i>Kennedia coccinea</i> (Coral vine).	Aug-Nov	Sandy and gravel	climber	SW groundcover, climber. Unknown properties to WRP in the SW. WRP are known to utilise this climber in Peppermint woodland areas. An attractive plant for native verges and gardens. Bird Attracting, particularly for Blue Wrens and honeyeaters.	

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References: City of Busselton natureverge booklet, BDEC booklet Native Plants for Gardens in SW, Florabase of Western Australia, www.florabase.dbcwa.gov.au, Australian National Botanic gardens.

Note: with a lot of these species, the nutritional value has not been tested. Nutritional values of individual Peppermint trees have been trialled by Murdoch University, with varying results.

☺ Are plants which have been identified as being eaten by WRP, although the nutritional value of anything apart from Peppermint trees is unknown.

Refer to Care Manual, Rehabilitation of Western Ringtail Possums (Wicke, U., Possum Centre Inc. 2010, page 37) which is recommended by DBCA.

Photos have been taken from DBCA Florabase, www.florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au

