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BAILEYS

Baileys guide to GROW AUSTRALIAN **NATIVES**



SELECTION



PLANTING



FEEDING

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

A handy guide to successfully growing
Australian Natives at home
with Neville Passmore

Baileys guide to GROW AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

Apart from having some of the most unique, colour soaked and fascinating flowers on the planet, our home grown native plants are brilliantly suited to growing in a harsh, low nutrient environment. Many are to survive and even thrive in hot and dry locations. If you want to bring birds, insect and other native wildlife to your garden then look no further. Being niche dwellers, there is always a plant for a spot in the garden no matter how inhospitable it may appear. Availability of Australian plants has never been better, new forms are now coming onto the market and many of these are garden friendly models.



What to grow?

This is where you need to narrow the mind boggling range of Aussie plants down to a selection that makes sense for you and which can reasonably be expected to succeed. Do your research or ask staff for personal advice.

When is the best time to plant?

In WA this can be expressed as any time that suits you except mid summer. It is possible to succeed with planting in January and February but it does take a lot of attention to detail particularly with watering.

How to plant?

Select plants that are not root-bound, you may need some help from the garden centre for this. Plant whatever size plant that's appropriate to the job, ensuring that you mix a small quantity of a composted soil conditioner such as **Baileys Soil Improver** into the backfill soil. Remove the plant without any unnecessary damage to the root ball. Refrain from fertilising until you see signs of new growth (usually weeks after planting). Water the plant in immediately and keep it regularly watered through the first establishing year before backing off in the following winter.

Which fertiliser?

Some families of Native plants have great sensitivity to high phosphate fertilisers. Essentially these plants have evolved to cope with low levels of available phosphate in our native soils. When we give them even a mild dose by regular standards it can be a fatal overdose for them. Members of the protea family including grevillea, banksia, hakea, waratah, isopogon are generally all susceptible to too much phosphate. Some acacias or wattles are highly susceptible but many are very tolerant too so it's necessary to get down to a finer level of detail about these. The Black Kangaroo paw (*Macropidia fuliginosa*) and the smaller Green variety (*Anigozanthos viridis*) are in a more sensitive group.

For these phosphorus sensitive types listed, use a specialised product such as **Baileys controlled release Australian Native Plant Food**. For all of the other commonly grown native plants fertilise with general purpose products such as **Baileys Energy Garden**.



Do natives need mulch?

The only bare soils you see in nature are in deserts so yes mulch will help your plants to establish and continue to thrive. Use a chunky composted material and avoid laying on any thicker than 50mm so that you don't stop water getting through to the root zone. **Baileys Moisture Mulch** is ideal.

