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Growing Grevilleas in South East Queensland

Grevilleas are arguably our most popular native plant. Birds and insects love the blooms and with regular, light trimming it is often possible to have year-round flowers.

But with over 400 different species and hundreds of cultivars of varying flower size, colour and plant form, how to you know what is the best choice for your garden?

First of all, it is important to recognize that the vast majority of grevilleas (about 250 species) come from Western Australia. New South Wales also has a significant number of endemic species (estimated at over 130). While some New South Wales species also grow naturally in Queensland, the number of grevilleas endemic to subtropical and tropical climates is comparatively few in number.

To get the best out of any grevillea keep in mind they prefer compost enriched, well-

drained soil (not just poor, rocky ground); are intolerant of phosphorous (no chicken-manure based soil, compost, fertilizer); prefer native plant or low phosphorous lawn fertilizer and need full sun.

Consider choosing cultivars that are either native to Queensland or have been bred in Queensland. Listed below are some of my preferred, long-lived grevilleas for Brisbane gardens. Most should be available in your local nursery. If not they may be able to order then.

Local authorities also have lists of local endemic species that include grevilleas. Some of these plants may be available through council free native plant programs. For the widest choice of local endemic species, contact your local community native plant nursery.

Large Shrubs (2m wide by 4m high)

Grevillea venusta – green flowers or look for the orange cultivar called Orange Marmalade

Grevillea Dorothy Gordon – unusual mauve flowers

Upright Growers (3m+ perfect for light screening or planting at the rear of a sunny garden).

Grevillea Superb – apricot/orange blooms

Grevillea Moonlight – pale white/cream flowers



Grevillea pteridifolia

Grevillea Honey Gem – soft, yellow blooms

Grevillea Sandra Gordon – yellow flowers

Grevillea Golden Lyre – large gold blooms

Shrubs (1-2m high and wide)

Grevillea Robyn Gordon – classic favourite with red flowers

Grevillea Ned Kelly – orange-red blooms

Grevillea Peaches and Cream – shades of peach, yellow and cream in the one flower

Grevillea Scarlet Sprite – small, bright scarlet blooms with spikey foliage which protects small birds



Grevillea Dorothy Gordon

Tall Tree Types (4m+ high)

Grevillea pteridifolia – bright orange-yellow blooms

Grevillea baileyana – white flowers and spectacular bronze undersides to the foliage



Grevillea Ned Kelly