



Plant something endemic to your local area this weekend

The idea of planting something native over the Australia Day long weekend is a growing tradition. But rather than go for a cultivated variety grown from cuttings, why not consider a hardier, seed grown, locally endemic native.

Search for your local community native plant nursery or search on the website of your local shire or council for recommendations for your local area. There are a few species I love for the Brisbane/Moreton and surrounding local government areas that are suitable for the average-sized or small gardens.



Dodonea-sp.-Hop-Bush



Graptophyllum species – Native Fuchsia

Dodonea species – Hop Bush
There are three local species that are all worthwhile considering: Sticky Hop Bush (*D. cuneata*), Triangle Leaf Hop Bush (*D. triangularis*) and Forest Hop Bush (*D. triquetra*). All grow in full sun or part shade and reach around 3m. They are naturally lightly foliated, but you can prune to increase foliage density. All have fabulously decorative seed pods.

Graptophyllum species – Native Fuchsia
Graptophyllum illicifolium (Holly Fuchsia) is the showiest. It grows to 5m and produces stunning fuchsia pink flowers. I have a number of these planted, but in recent years have come to appreciate *Graptophyllum spinigerum* (Spiny Fuchsia). It has smaller holy-like leaves and is a very hardy, well behaved shrub that you can allow to grow to 3m, or trim to a formal or informal shrub or hedge. It is a perfect low-maintenance shrub and bears small white flowers.

Bulbine bulbosa – Bulbine Lily (or native leek, but the foliage is not generally eaten/not palatable)
Greyish/green succulent-like foliage with multiple flower stems up to 75cm high. The yellow flowers open progressively making it long flowering and the native bees absolutely love it. Full sun gives better flowering and it is not fussy about soil type. Tolerates dry or wet soil.

Others to consider:
Acacia frimbriata – Fringed wattle and Brisbane's native floral emblem.
Crinum pedunculatum – Swamp or River Lily
Syzygium wilsonii – Powerpuff Lilypilly
Austromyrtus dulcis – Midgen Berry
Banksia spinulosa – Hairpin Banksia
Eucalyptus curtisii – Plunket Mallee



Assorted native plants

Breynia oblongifolia – Coffee Bush
Grows to 3m high with a light foliage coverage for full sun or part shade. Adaptable to a range of soil types including dry soil and evergreen all year.