

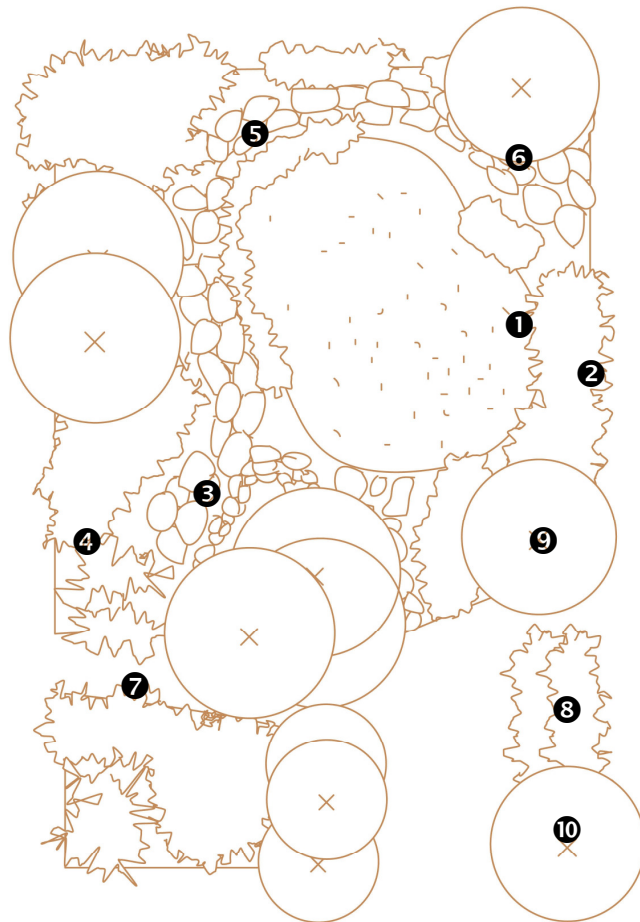
Wildlife Garden

Redlands has a diverse range of wildlife thanks to a wide variety of habitats. Coastal sand dunes, mangroves and wallum heaths surround our coasts while a range of drier eucalypts forests, even rainforest, occur further inland. Over 350 species of birds, 60 species of mammals and 80 species of reptiles and amphibians have been recorded in our shire. We also provide a home for threatened species such as the Glossy-black Cockatoo, Water Mouse, Wallum Froglet and, of course, the koala.

One of the great joys of gardening is attracting wildlife close to your house to observe and enjoy.

Wildlife can be easily attracted to your garden through a variety of local flowering plants that produce nectar-rich flowers and provide shelter for hungry birds and insects, and also by providing regular water for species moving through. One of the most common problems of native gardens is that too much nectar is provided and aggressive, larger species such as miners, lorikeets and friarbirds take over the garden. Any successful wildlife-attracting garden must have low dense shrubs to provide protection for smaller animals so they can feel safe while accessing your plants and water.

For larger properties, nothing beats tall trees for attracting wildlife. Eucalypts will attract birds and koalas and eventually provide homes for possums, gliders, even insectivorous bats. Denser rainforest-type trees will provide shelter for a range of birds and mammals and also provide a great food source when fruiting, bringing birds from all over the district to your garden.



Species in the garden

	<p>Swainsona galegifolia ① Darling Pea</p> <p>A sprawling wildflower to about 1m with compound leaves and rich red to pink flowers in spring. Hardy in full or filtered sun and grows well among grasses and other small shrubs. A food plant for the Tailed Pea-blue butterfly (<i>Lampides boeticus</i>).</p>		<p>Pararistolochia praevenosa ② Richmond Birdwing Vine</p> <p>A slow-growing, woody rainforest vine that prefers a sheltered, fertile site. The sole larval plant for the rare Richmond Birdwing butterfly. To attract butterflies you will need a small cluster of plants to provide sufficient food.</p>
	<p>Cymbopogon refractus ③ Barbed-wire Grass</p> <p>Tall, tussock-like grass to 1m with long flowering stems that look like barbed-wire (but are not hard to touch). Looks great for much of spring and summer but best cut back in autumn. A fabulous plant for creating habitat for birds and lizards; button-quail have been seen in this garden.</p>		<p>Gahnia aspera Red-fruited Saw Sedge</p> <p>A hardy, grass-like sedge with attractive green foliage that grows to about 60cm. The foliage is sharp on the edges and best not planted near paths. An outstanding butterfly food plant, used by the rare Swordgrass Brown.</p>
	<p>Lomandra longifolia ④ Spiky Mat-rush</p> <p>Tufting grass-like plant to 1m with spiky, lemon scented flowers in spring. Extremely hardy and will grow in virtually any situation once established. Makes a nice border or an excellent bank stabiliser. Attracts butterflies while also providing great shelter.</p>		<p>Melaleuca thymifolia ⑤ Thyme Honeymyrtle</p> <p>A small melaleuca to 1 metre, it is now very rare, possibly extinct, in Redlands. It once grew on the edge of <i>Banksia robur</i> swamps. It performs best in full sun with plentiful moisture, becoming straggly in dry or shady conditions. Improved by regular pruning.</p>
	<p>Bursaria spinosa ⑥ Spiny Box</p> <p>Not as unpleasant as it sounds, the spines are mostly on new growth. It makes a hardy and attractive small tree to 6m with sprays of small white flowers. It is hardy and will grow in most situations. The presence of the spines make this a favoured plant for small birds to nest in.</p>		<p>Eucalyptus curtisii ⑦ Brisbane Mallee</p> <p>A small multi-trunked mallee that grows to about 5 metres. A very fast-growing tree, it bears a mass of white gum blossom in spring that attracts insects and birds. Attractive shiny bark is deciduous. Pruning will encourage the formation of multiple trunks.</p>
	<p>Callistemon viminalis Weeping Bottlebrush</p> <p>The classic red-flowering bottlebrush, many nursery forms have been adapted from this species, but they've never improved on the original. A stately small tree to 6m with weeping foliage that will cope in a variety of situations from wetland edges to the driest gardens.</p>		<p>Callistemon salignus ⑧ Pink Tips Bottlebrush</p> <p>A tall bottlebrush to 8m with papery bark and flushes of bright pink new growth. The local form has cream-white brushes in spring that are highly attractive to nectar feeders.</p>
	<p>Allocasuarina cunninghamii ⑨ River She-oak</p> <p>Tall, straight she-oak to 15m, one of the nicest local species. Hardy once established, the she-oaks are amongst the best plants for attracting wildlife – especially flying insects and the birds that feed on them.</p>		<p>Eucalyptus tereticornis ⑩ Queensland Blue Gum</p> <p>A tall, fast growing eucalypt with smooth bark. It has irregular patches of blue and silver-grey bark. Grows on more fertile soils in open forest with cream flowers. A favourite koala food tree, it grows to 40m.</p>

Some other species to consider

Trees		Herbs, small plants	
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black She-oak	<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	Mat Rush
<i>Cryptocarya</i> spp.	Laurels	<i>Pseuderanthemum variable</i>	Love Flower
<i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i>	Swamp Box	<i>Pultenaea villosa</i>	Hairy Bush-pea
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Broad-leaved Paperbark	<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	Arrow-leaved Violet
Shrubs		Vines & Creepers	
<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	Coffee Bush	<i>Cissus opaca</i>	Native Grape
<i>Clerodendrum tomentosum</i>	Lolly Bush	<i>Geitnoplesium cymosum</i>	Scrambling Lily
<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	Wild May	<i>Parsonsia straminea</i>	Monkey Rope
<i>Melaleuca sierberi</i>	Sieber's Paperbark	<i>Stephania japonica</i>	Tape Vine