

Vegetation Communities Rehabilitation Guide 2

Alluvial flats, watercourses and wetlands

The alluvial flats, watercourses and wetlands planting guide lists the dominant trees, shrubs, groundcovers and vines that are native to the Ipswich local area.

Both botanical and local common names are provided for easy reference. Topographic preference and usefulness have also been provided to highlight the benefits of each species.

The aim of the planting guide is to provide landholders and community groups with a list of native species for revegetation and rehabilitation projects.

These species are generally available from native plant nurseries in the Ipswich region.

The Bremer River Basin is an extensive area of alluvial flats, watercourses and wetlands, particularly west and south-west of Ipswich City, bordered by the Little Liverpool Range, the Great Dividing Range, Flinders Peak and associated mountains, and the Brisbane River to the north.

Seven vegetation communities have been identified in the Bremer Basin including:

- Swamp tea-tree (*Melaleuca irbyana*)
- Paperbark tea-tree (*Melaleuca quinquinervia*)
- Queensland blue gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)
- Riparian
- Freshwater wetlands

Swamp tea-tree community

With only three per cent of the original area remaining this vegetation community is classified as *Endangered*. Swamp tea-tree forests can be found on the grey cracking clay soils in the Bremer Basin, forming a low, closed canopy reaching a height of 10-12 metres.

The distinctive understorey comprises native herbs, grasses, sedges and forbs. In some areas the Swamp tea-tree appears as an understorey shrub beneath Queensland blue gum (*E. tereticornis*) and Narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*).

Paperbark tea-tree community

This community is exclusive to the alluvial sandstone soils of Six Mile and Sandy creeks. Other canopy species in this community include Queensland blue gum (*E. tereticornis*) and Swamp box (*Lophostemon suaveolens*).

Queensland blue gum communities

Although the Forest red gum occurs throughout Ipswich, they dominate the alluvial flats. The understorey consists predominately of Maiden's wattle (*Acacia maidenii*), Red ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*) and native grasses, with Weeping bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*) and some rainforest species occurring along the watercourses.

Other eucalypt species such as Narrow-leaved ironbark (*E. crebra*), Gum-topped box (*Eucalyptus molucanna*) and Pink bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*) co-occur in some areas and become more dominant in the foothills and slopes.

Riparian communities

A narrow fringe of riparian vegetation remains along many of the waterways in the Bremer Basin. Extensive areas of this vegetation community have been removed or severely degraded due to competing land uses. This vegetation can be broadly divided into two groups; eucalypt emergent and rainforest.

The most common is the eucalypt emergent community. This community has a canopy species of Queensland blue gum (*E. tereticornis*), with River she-oak (*Allocasuarina cunninghamiana*), Weeping bottlebrush (*C. viminalis*) and Matt rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) dominating the lower strata.

The riparian forest community is dominated by Black bean (*Castanospermum australe*), Bush cherry (*Syzygium australe*) and Three-veined cryptocarya (*Cryptocarya triplernervis*), with a dense understorey consisting of rainforest shrubs and small trees, ferns, vines and sedges.

Freshwater wetlands

This vegetation community is situated in areas of deep alluvial soils with a high water table. The more common species include Water couch (*Paspalum distichum*), Water primrose (*Ludwegia peploides*), Spike rush (*Eleocharis equisetina*), Frogmouth (*Philydrum lanuginosum*) and a number of *Nymphaea* sp. Wetlands across Ipswich have been highly degraded due to a long history of pastoral use.

CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE

All vegetation types are classified under the State Vegetation Management Act of 1999 (VMA 1999) and/or the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC 1999). Plant and animal species are classified under the State Nature Conservation Act of 1992 (NCA 1992).

The Bremer Basin communities have several Regional Ecosystems including some classified as *Endangered* or *Of Concern*.

Significant flora

- Prickly wattle (*Acacia amblygona*)
- Bumpy ash (*Flindersia schottiana*)
- Swamp tea-tree (*Melaleuca irbyana*)

Species name	Common name	Ht	Climate		Topography		Usefulness								
		Mature height	Drought tolerance High / Med / Low	Frost tolerance High / Med / Low	Saturated cracking clay soils	Alluvial flats / stream lines / wetlands	Ridges	Windbreak	Erosion control	Wildlife habitat	Shade/ shelter	Timber production	Pollen / honey	Saline soils	Fire retardation
TALL TREES															
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	Rough-bark apple	25	H	H		O	O			O			O		
<i>Castanopermum australe</i>	Black bean	25	L	L		O			O	O	O	O			O
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	River she-oak	30	M	H		O		O	O	O	O			O	O
<i>Cryptocarya triplenervis</i>	Three-veined cryptocarya	25	M	L		O			O	O	O				
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Forest red gum	30	M	H	O	O			O	O		O	O	O	
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton bay fig	30	M	L	O	O		O	O	O	O				
<i>Lophostemon sauevolens</i>	Swamp mahogany	20	M	H		O				O	O		O		
<i>Melaleuca quinquinervia</i>	Paperbark tea-tree	20	L	H		O			O	O	O		O		
<i>Waterhousia floribunda</i>	Weeping lilly-pilly	30	L	L		O			O	O	O		O		
MEDIUM TREES															
<i>Acacia concurrens</i>	Black wattle	10	H	H			O			O			O		O
<i>Alectryon tomentosus</i>	Hairy birds eye	8	H	H		O	O	O	O	O	O				O
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black she-oak	8				O	O		O	O	O				
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Weeping bottle brush	10	M	H		O		O	O	O	O			O	
<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	Cheese tree	15	M	L		O			O	O	O				
<i>Melaleuca bracteata</i>	Black tea-tree	12	M	H		O		O		O	O		O		
<i>Melaleuca irbyana</i>	Swamp tea-tree	8	M	M	O	O				O	O		O		
<i>Syzygium australe</i>	Bush cherry	30	L	L		O			O	O			O		
SHRUBS															
<i>Ficus opposita</i>	Sandpaper fig	5	M	L		O			O	O					
<i>Maclura cochinchinensis</i>	Cockspur	2	M	M			O		O	O					
<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	Native may	4	L	L				O		O	O		O		
<i>Babingtonia virgata</i>	Twiggy myrtle	2.5	H	M	O	O				O			O		

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GROUND COVER													
<i>Carex inversa</i>	Knob sedge	0.5	M	M	O				O				
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Yellow buttons	0.2	M	M			O		O				
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	Barb wire grass	1	M	M		O	O		O				
<i>Eremophilia debile</i>	Creeping boobialla	0.1	M	M	O				O				
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Matrush	1	M	H		O	O		O	O			
<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	Rice flower/sago bush	1	H	L			O		O				
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo grass	0.5	H	H		O	O		O				
VINES													
<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	Wombat berry	0.5	L	H		O	O		O				
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple coral pea	1	H	H		O			O				O
<i>Jasminum simplicifolium</i>	Native jasmine	0.5	L	L	O				O				
AQUATIC													
<i>Eleocharis equisetina</i>	Spike rush	1	M	M		O			O				
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	Water primrose	1	M	M		O			O				
<i>Nymphaea gigantea</i>	Native giant waterlily		L	M	O				O				
<i>Nymphoides indica</i>	Water snowflake		L	M	O				O				
<i>Philydrum lanuginosum</i>	Frogmouth	2	M	M	O				O				