

Plants of Irongate Conservation Park



Condamine Country Plant Group

by the Condamine Country Plant Group
(Lisa Churchward, Patricia Gardner,
Steve Plant & Greg Spearritt)

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Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which Irongate Conservation Park stands and their care for Country over tens of millennia.

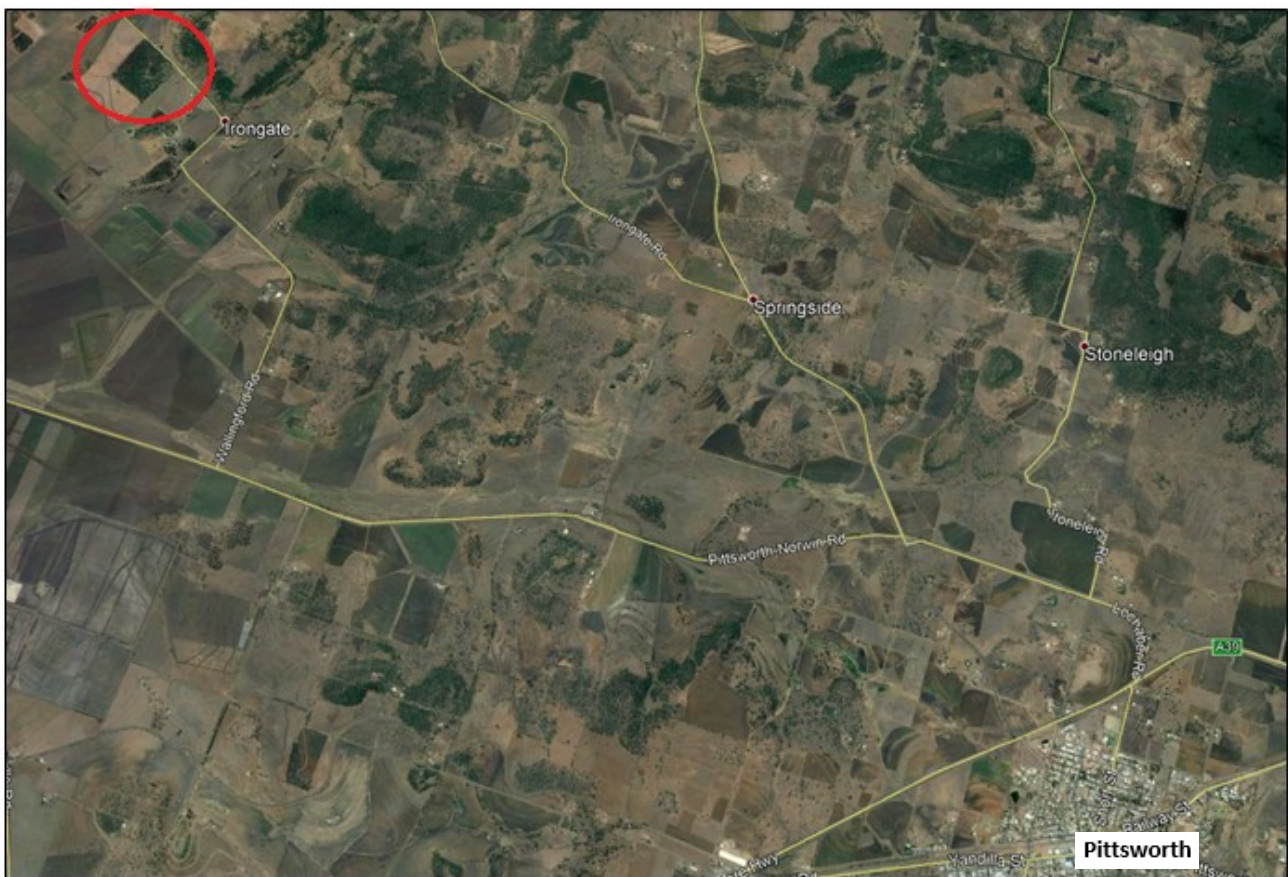
About Irongate Conservation Park

Irongate Conservation Park is a 29-hectare reserve set aside in 1976 as an Environmental Park. In 1994 it was gazetted as a Conservation Park under Queensland's Nature Conservation Act.

The Park protects an endangered Regional Ecosystem (11.9.5: Brigalow-Belah open forest on fine-grained sedimentary rocks) as well as some endangered and vulnerable plant and animal species such as Belson's Panic Grass, the Glossy Black Cockatoo and the Painted Honeyeater.



Vegetation at Irongate ranges from Mountain Coolibah woodland to Brigalow and Belah scrub with an understorey of dry rainforest species. Brigalow/Belah scrub was once common in this area, but much of the land has now been cleared for farming and grazing. Apart from the public reserve at Irongate, local remnants of this scrub are generally restricted to private land and small patches on ridge tops.



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Note: * indicates an introduced (non-native) species

BRIGALOW

(Acacia harpophylla)



A large tree endemic to Queensland and NSW. It has been cleared from much pastoral land in Queensland.

Distinguishing features

- Distinctive silvery-grey foliage
- Leaves (actually phyllodes) curved and tapering
- Bark fibrous, furrowed and brown/grey

BITTERBARK

(Alstonia constricta)



A shrub or small tree to 12m. Known to have some medicinal properties. The bark has been used in dye-making.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite, often narrowly lance-shaped
- Leaves, especially juvenile leaves, have soft texture
- Milky sap when leaves are pulled off the stem

GOLDEN HOLLYWOOD

(Auranticarpa rhombifolia)



An attractive medium-sized tree from south-east Queensland and northern NSW.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves glossy green and rhombic (diamond-shaped)
- Leaves alternate and more or less toothed
- 'Drip tip' on leaves

BELAH

(Casuarina cristata)



Tree to 20m. The leaves are actually tiny teeth at the end of each green branchlet segment. The seeds are an important food source for the vulnerable Glossy Black Cockatoo which has been recorded at Irongate CP.

Distinguishing features

- Segmented needle-like leaves (actually branchlets)
- Foliage branchlets dark green
- Bark grey, tessellated

SILVER-LEAVED CROTON

(Croton insularis)



A small tree to 15m native to the east coast of Queensland and central-northern NSW.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves discolourous (green on top, silvery under)
- Oil dots visible on leaves
- Leaves turn red/orange as they age
- Leaves alternate; often have wavy margins

ORANGE OLIVE PLUM

(Elaeodendron australe)



A small native tree to 8m with orange/red berries that turn black when mature.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves glossy, mostly opposite
- Leaf margins very slightly crenate (scalloped)
- Petiole (leaf stem) channelled on upper side

REDWOOD BUSH

(Erythroxylum sp. 'Splityard Creek')



A small Queensland tree. Host plant for various ant-butterfly species.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves small (to 4cm long) and stiff with a blunt tip
- Leaves alternate and elliptical (widest in the middle) to obovate (widest towards the tip)
- Leaves discolourous (paler below)

MOUNTAIN COOLIBAH

(Eucalyptus orgadophila)



A spreading tree attractive to a range of wildlife on account of its pollen and nectar, its leaves (for koalas and possums) and its tendency to form hollows for shelter while relatively young (around 70 years).

Distinguishing features

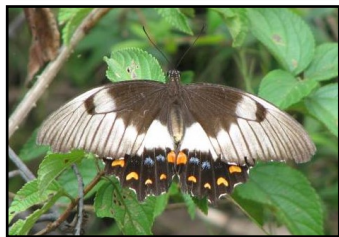
- Commonly has a leaning habit
- Bark persistent on trunk, upper branches bare
- Seedpods have a thick rim

LEOPARD ASH

(*Flindersia collina*)



Juvenile leaf



Orchard Swallowtail
Papilio aegeus

(male top, female bottom)

Large tree to 40m with distinctive five-valved woody seed capsules. Host plant for the Orchard Swallowtail Butterfly.

Distinguishing features

- Bark mottled where small oval flakes fall off
- Leaves compound (consisting of leaflets) and imparipinnate (have a terminal leaflet)
- Leaflets more or less sessile (lacking a leaf stem)

COMMON WILGA

(Geijera parviflora)



A shrub or small tree to 10m. Host plant for the Orchard and Dainty Swallowtail Butterflies.

Distinguishing features

- Drooping foliage often reaching the ground
- Leaves alternate
- Leaves narrow with the margins almost parallel

SCRUB WILGA (*Geijera salicifolia*)



A shrub or small tree to 10m. Both Wilgas provide important shelter and food for a variety of insects and birds.



Distinguishing features

- Drooping foliage
- Leaves alternate
- Leaves elliptic (widest in the middle)

SMALL-FRUITED MOCK OLIVE

(Notelaea microcarpa)



A small, often crooked tree with blue/black fruits eaten by birds.



Distinguishing features

- Often multi-stemmed
- Leaves opposite, elongated & widest in middle
- Leaves often have a short flexible tip

GUMBY GUMBY

(Pittosporum angustifolium)



A small native tree that is long-lived and widespread across Australia. It was used in traditional Indigenous medicine.



Distinguishing features

- Weeping habit; more upright & less dense than Wilga
- Leaves narrow, often slightly falcate (sickle-shaped)
- Leaves alternate

NORTHERN SANDALWOOD

(Santalum lanceolatum)



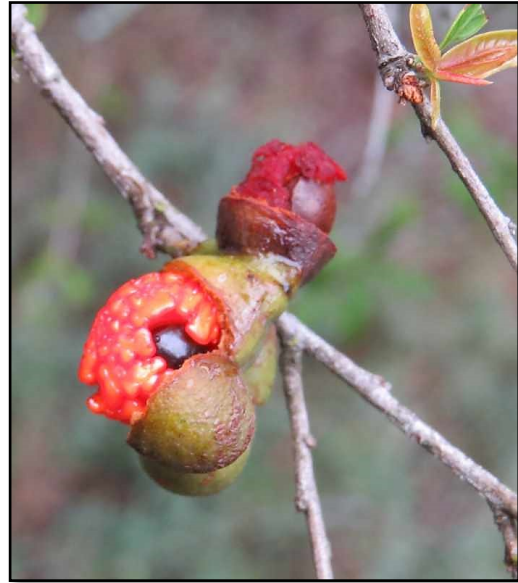
Small tree with drooping branches, grey-green leaves and small white star-shaped flowers. A root parasite: roots attach to other plants (not harming their host). Indigenous Australians are known to have burnt the leaves and branches as an insect repellent.

Distinguishing features

- Weeping habit
- Leaves blue-green
- Leaves opposite

SCRUB BOONAREE

(Alectryon diversifolius)



A slow-growing native shrub to 4m. Seeds are largely bird-dispersed.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate
- Leaves leathery and stiff
- Leaf shape varies from rounded (usually obovate: widest towards the tip) to holly-like (sharply toothed)



WARRIOR BUSH

(Capparis anomala)



Caper White Butterfly
Belenois java

A mostly leafless native shrub to 6m tall. Fruits turn black when ripe. Host plant for the Caper White Butterfly.

Distinguishing features

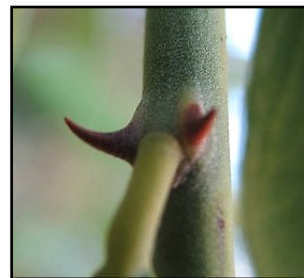
- Upright habit
- Mature branches leafless
- Branches smooth and green

MITCHELL'S CAPER TREE

(Capparis mitchellii)



A scrambling shrub or small tree which often begins life behaving like a vine. White/cream flowers are followed by globular fruits with edible pulp. Host plant for the Caper White and Common Pearl White Butterflies.



Caper White Butterfly
Belenois java

Distinguishing features

- Leaves stiff
- Leaves alternate
- Often has short spines in neat pairs along stems

KUNKERBERRY

(Carissa ovata)



A prickly and often dense shrub offering good shelter for wildlife. Host plant for the Common Crow and Australian Crow Butterflies.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves ovate (widest less than half way from base) or broadly elliptic (widest in middle)
- Leaves glossy, tough and mostly opposite
- Paired spines up to 25mm long on twigs

PEACH BUSH

(Ehretia membranifolia)



Native shrub or small tree. Leaves resemble those of a peach tree.



Distinguishing features

- Smooth, pale grey bark
- Leaves alternate, thin and light green in colour
- Leaf stem (petiole) 5 – 20cm long

NODDING SALTBUSH

(Einadia nutans)



A low shrub to 1m with small orange, yellow or red berries. Host plant for the Saltbush Blue Butterfly.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves mostly opposite
- Leaves mostly triangular or shield-shaped
- Leaves mostly petiolate (possess a leaf stem)

RUBY SALTBUSH

(Enchylaena tomentosa)



A low, dense shrub to 1m. Edible bright red or orange berries attract a variety of birds. Host plant for the Saltbush Blue Butterfly.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves semi-terete (circular in cross-section)
- Leaves mid-to-pale green and semi-succulent
- Leaves not petiolate (have no leaf stem)

ELLANGOWAN POISON BUSH

(Eremophila deserti)



A native shrub which can be poisonous to stock. The small yellow fruits are eaten by emus and bustards.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate, thin, elongated
- Petiole (leaf stem) very short or absent
- The thin branches may feature small warty lumps

BRUSH HOVEA

(Hovea longipes)



A beautiful native shrub. The purple pea flowers sometimes age to very pale or white.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves discolourous (dark green above, yellowish and ageing to grey below)
- Leaves alternate
- Leaf margins slightly recurved (curved downwards)

SMALL-LEAVED BLUEBUSH

(Maireana microphylla)



A low-growing native shrub in the saltbush family. Tiny green disc-shaped flowers become white, pink or reddish winged seeds which look more like flowers than the actual flowers do. A dense habit makes this plant valuable as habitat for wildlife.

Distinguishing features

- Dense habit, hemispherical shape
- Leaves alternate
- Leaves tiny, thread-like, to 10mm long

BOX-LEAVED CANTHIUM

(*Psydrax odorata* subsp. *buxifolium*)



Native shrub or small tree. Fragrant white flower clusters followed by small black drupes (like stone fruits).

Distinguishing features

- Leaves and branches stiff; leaves opposite
- Leaves glossy green and discolourous (paler below)
- Leaf veins visible on top but not on lower surface

FRAGRANT SALTBUUSH

(Rhagodia parabolica)



A scrambling native shrub to 2m tall.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves thin and often roughly diamond-shaped
- Leaves grey-green and mostly opposite, to 4cm long
- Leaf margins often wavy

HEDGE ORANGEBARK

(Denhamia bilocularis)



A large native shrub to 12m tall. The black seeds are enclosed in an orange aril which is eaten by birds.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves stiff and glossy green (paler below)
- Leaves alternate, to 9cm x 3.5cm
- Leaf margins toothed, especially when young

BERRY SALTBUUSH

(Rhagodia spinescens)



A low, dense shrub to 1m with edible pink or red berries. Older branchlets can be spine-tipped. Host plant for the Saltbush Blue Butterfly.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves more or less opposite
- Leaves mostly elliptic (football-shaped)
- Leaves mostly petiolate (possess a leaf stem)

PEPPERLEAF SENNA

(Senna barclayana)



Native shrub to 2m tall.



Distinguishing features

- Compound leaves usually with 6-10 pairs of leaflets
- Leaves alternate
- Small round gland at the base of leaves

JEWELBOX CASSIA

(Senna coronilloides)



Sprawling native shrub to 2m tall. Host plant for Lemon Migrant and Grass Yellow Butterflies.

Distinguishing features

- Compound leaves usually with 4 pairs of leaflets
- Leaves alternate
- Small erect gland between lower-most leaflet pair

SQUARE-STEMMED BROOM

(Teucrium junceum)



Scrambling native shrub with white flowers in early summer and tiny orange berries in winter-spring.



Distinguishing features

- Tangled habit; angular stems
- Stems usually square in cross-section
- Leaves often absent or small and scale-like

SLENDER GRAPE

(Causonis clematidea)



A scrambling climber.
A pioneer species.
Host plant for Joseph's Coat Moth, *Agarista agricola*.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves 5-compound in a palmate arrangement
- Leaflets closest to the stem are usually smallest
- Leaflets lobed; not glossy

GRASSLAND BINDWEED

(Convolvulus graminetinus)



A trailing, twining native climber.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate and elongated
- Leaves variable in shape but often with basal and side lobes
- Pale pink/mauve flowers

NATIVE BRYONY

(Diplocyclos palmatus)



A vine with white or yellowish-green flowers followed by red fruits with white stripes, like small melons up to 3cm in diameter. All parts of this plant are known to be toxic.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate with up to 7 deep lobes
- Petiole (leaf stem) slightly prickly
- Scattered hairs on upper leaf surfaces

SCRUB JASMINE

(Jasminum didymum subsp. racemosum)



A scrambling native vine or low shrub with white perfumed flowers followed by small black fruits.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves glossy green, up to 5.5cm long
- Leaves mostly trifoliate (consisting of 3 leaflets)
- Middle leaflet blade and stalk longer than the others

STIFF JASMINE

(Jasminum simplicifolium)



A scrambling native shrub or vine with stems up to 10m long. It has scented white flowers, each with 5 – 8 petals.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite
- Petiole (leaf stem) often jointed in its lower half
- Leaves dark green, slightly paler on underside

WONGA VINE

(Pandorea pandorana)



Adult leaves



Juvenile leaves



A vigorous twining plant with showy flowers in winter-spring.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves mostly opposite
- Adult leaves compound with 5-9 leaflets
- Juvenile leaves fern-like with much smaller leaflets

GARGALOO

(Parsonsia eucalyptophylla)



A scrambling
native climber.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves long and thin, resembling eucalypt leaves (usually more than 8 times as long as wide)
- Leaves opposite
- Watery sap

ROUGH SILKPOD

(Parsonsia lanceolata)



A native climber with watery sap, cream flowers summer-autumn and slender cylindrical seed pods to 12cm long. Food plant for the Common Crow butterfly.

Distinguishing features

- Leaf shape variable (3–10cm long, 0.5–5cm wide)
- Leaves opposite, stiff/leathery and paler underneath
- Leaves typically have a short, stiff apex

MONKEY ROPE VINE

(Parsonsia straminea)



Juvenile leaf

A native climber. Host plant for the Australian Crow and Common Crow Butterflies.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite, elongated, tapering
- Can climb, in part, by adventitious roots (roots arising from the stem)
- Leaves paler underneath
- Juvenile leaves purplish, slightly heart-shaped

SMALL-LEAVED ABUTILON

(*Abutilon oxycarpum* var. *incanum*)



A small native herb.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate, to 2.4cm long, with soft texture
- Leaves usually cordate (heart-shaped)
- Leaves paler below, with toothed margins

STRAGGLY ABUTILON

(Abutilon oxycarpum)



This small, erect native shrub is a host plant for the Hawk Moth. Its leaves are also eaten by the Hibiscus and Jewel Beetles.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate, to 14cm long, with soft texture
- Leaves usually cordate (heart-shaped)
- Leaves paler below, with toothed margins

VARIABLE MISTLETOE

(Amyema congener)



A hemiparasitic plant (feeds on a host tree but also photosynthesises). A host plant for, among others, the Imperial Jezabel, Black Jezabel, Dark Purple Azure, Satin Azure and Southern Purple Azure Butterflies.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves rounded, mostly obovate (widest near tip)
- Leaves leathery
- Leaf veins obscure

SLENDER BAMBOO GRASS

(Austrostipa verticillata)



A tufting perennial grass up to 1m tall.
Native to south-east Queensland and NSW.

Distinguishing features

- Stems with whorled branches (giving a bamboo-like appearance)
- Leaves rough to touch and slightly ribbed

MOUNTAIN BURR-DAISY

(Calotis cuneata)



A long-flowering
perennial native
daisy.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves have slightly toothed margins
- Leaves alternate
- Basal leaves clustered together

YELLOW BURR-DAISY

(Calotis lappulacea)



A long-flowering perennial native daisy to 50cm tall. Yellow flowers are followed by round burr-like seed heads.

Distinguishing features

- Clumping habit
- Upper leaves small and sessile (no leaf stem)
- Leaves alternate

LITTLE SPURFLOWER

(Coleus australis)



A native herb or small shrub to 70cm tall which prefers shaded, damp locations.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite
- Leaf margins bluntnly toothed
- Leaves ovate (widest towards the base)

WANDERING SAILOR

(*Commelina diffusa*)



A weak-stemmed, creeping native herb rooting at the joints (nodes) of the stem. Blue flowers occasionally attract the Blue Banded Bee, an insect which sees best in the blue range. A similar plant with white flowers – *Tradescantia fluminensis* – is an introduced species.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves fleshy and dark/glossy green
- Leaves have an obvious leaf sheath (base of leaf)
- Roots at nodes

BLACK ORCHID

(Cymbidium canaliculatum)



A native orchid typically growing on large trunks or logs. An extensive root & rhizome system helps this epiphyte reach nutrients deep in decaying wood and helps protect it from desiccation and heat in dry areas.



Distinguishing features

- Clumping habit
- Leaves long (to 60cm), rigid and channelled
- Leaves alternate and sessile (no leaf stem)

DEVIL'S MARBLES

(Eremophila debilis)



A native mat-forming groundcover with white or pink flowers and small, edible white or pinkish apple-like fruits.

Distinguishing features

- Leaf margins toothed towards the base
- Leaves elongated, alternate
- Leaves not petiolate (have no stem)

BANANA MISTLETOE

(Lysiana subfalcata)



A native mistletoe. Locally the flowers are yellow with green tips/petals, but in most areas around Australia *Lysiana subfalcata* has red flowers.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves oblanceolate (lance-shaped, widest near tip)
- Leaves have 2–4 lateral veins
- Flowers are in pairs

NATIVE PENNYROYAL

(Mentha satureioides)



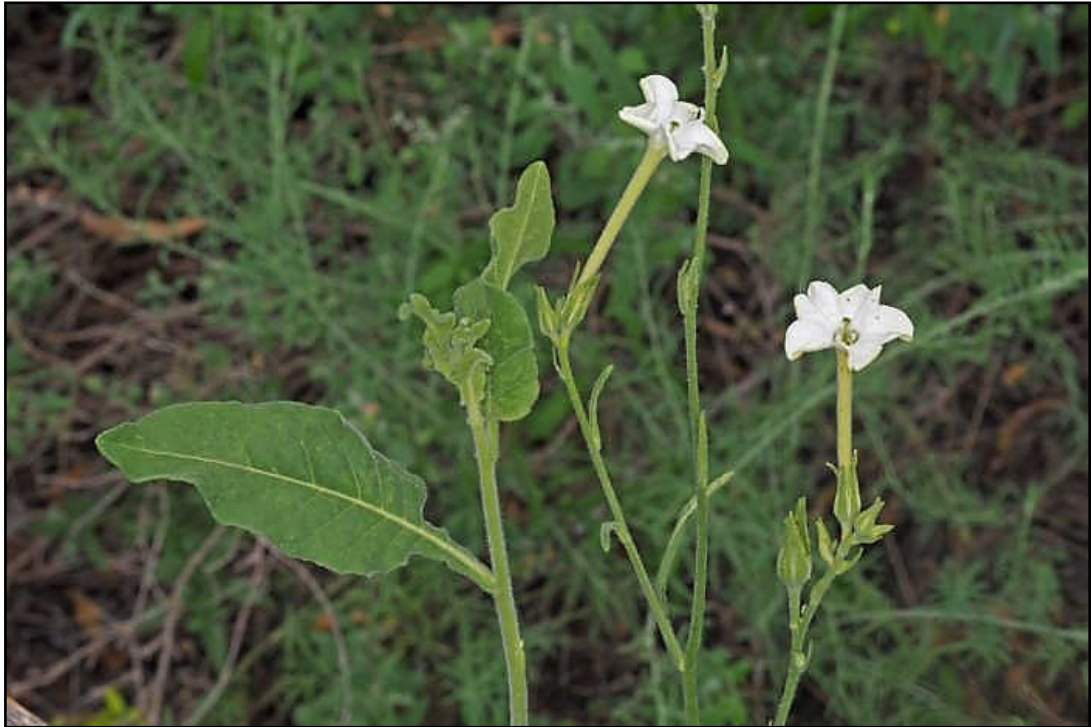
A perennial native herb with tiny white flowers in groups of three. Native to the eastern mainland states and South Australia. Country women used to dry the aromatic leaves and make sachets to keep insects away from their clothing drawer.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite
- Leaves glabrous (without hairs)
- Leaves have a mint-like smell when crushed

LONG-FLOWERED TOBACCO

(Nicotiana megalosiphon)



A native tobacco plant with white trumpet-shaped flowers.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite
- Upper leaves sessile (no leaf-stalk) and stem-clasping (slightly wrapped around the stem)
- Stems and leaves pubescent (short, soft hairs)

TWINLEAF

(Roepera apiculata)



A low, spreading native shrub. Host plant for the Dark Grass Blue Butterfly, the Whitelined Hawk Moth and the Castor Semi-Looper Moth.



Distinguishing features

- Each leaf consists of two broad, rounded leaflets
- Leaflets are obliquely obovate (egg-shaped)
- Leaves articulate (jointed) at base of leaflets

BRIGALOW BURR

(Sclerolaena tetracuspis)



A prickly, mat-forming native herb. One of the preferred food plants for the endangered Bridled Nailtail Wallaby.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves mid-green, cylindrical, succulent
- Spines usually 4 in number, regularly spaced
- Leaves not petiolate (have no leaf stem)

PERENNIAL YELLOWTOP

(*Senecio pinnatifolius* var. *pinnatifolius*)



An erect native herb with daisy-like flowers from spring to autumn.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate
- Leaves deeply divided
- Leaf margins entire (unlike the introduced Fireweed, *Senecio madagascariensis*)

SPIKED SIDA

(Sida hackettiana)



An erect native herb.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate
- Leaves and stems densely hairy with felt texture
- Leaves often insect-damaged

MITCHELL'S NIGHTSHADE

(Solanum mitchellianum)



A very prickly
native shrub in
the tomato
family.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves and stems densely covered with spines
- Leaves alternate
- Leaves shallowly lobed (three or four on each side)

SMALL-LEAVED NIGHTSHADE

(Solanum parvifolium)



An erect woody native shrub to 1m tall.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate
- Prickles sometimes present on leaves along the midrib vein; plentiful on stem
- Leaves discolourous: underside pale/whitish

NATIVE SPINACH

(Tetragonia tetragonoides)



A low, spreading native herb with small yellow flowers Aug - Dec. It can be used as a leafy vegetable, like spinach. Captain James Cook used it to help prevent scurvy in his crew.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves roughly rhombic (diamond-shaped)
- Leaves and stems soft, semi-succulent
- Veins prominent on underside of leaf

NATIVE VERBENA

(Verbena gaudichaudii)



A weak-stemmed herb to 1m tall.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite
- Leaves toothed and deeply divided
- Flowers in spikes to 30cm long

NEW HOLLAND DAISY

(Vittadinia sulcata)



An erect annual herb to 30cm tall.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate
- Some leaves entire, some lobed
- Leaves and stems clothed in fine hairs

SMALL-FLOWERED BLUEBELL

(Wahlenbergia gracilis)



A perennial tufting herb native to all Australian states except WA.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves narrow and up to 6cm long
- Upper leaves alternating
- Flowers blue/mauve, usually only to 7mm across

HEART-LEAVED ICE PLANT

*(Aptenia cordifolia)**



A scrambling, prostrate succulent groundcover native to southern Africa and widely used as an ornamental plant in gardens. It has the potential to smother native groundcovers and suppress germination of native shrubs and trees.

Distinguishing features

- Succulent, heart-shaped leaves
- Leaves glossy and light green

MOTHER OF MILLIONS

*(Bryophyllum delagoense)**



An invasive plant which is poisonous to stock and considered a significant environmental weed in Qld. Native to Madagascar.

Distinguishing features

- Erect habit
- Fleshy, succulent leaves
- Mottled camouflage-like pattern on leaves

RHODES GRASS

*(Chloris gayana)**



A widely-used pasture species which can smother native ground-covers and small herbs. Native to southern/eastern Africa.

Distinguishing features

- Erect habit, to 2m tall
- Splayed seed head with 6 – 18 spikelets
- Leaves elongated (8-28 cm long) and mostly hairless

MAYNE'S PEST

*(Glandularia aristigera)**



An invasive weed (a garden escape) of agricultural areas. Native to South America. The purple flowers usually appear in a cluster (corymb). Grows to about 50cm.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves opposite and deeply dissected (lace-like)
- Leaves roughly triangular in outline
- Leaves sessile (lacking a stem)

BALLOON COTTON BUSH

*(Gomphocarpus physocarpus)**



An invasive weed to 2m tall; native to Southern Africa. Introduced before 1802 in Sydney; first described as a pest species in 1817. By 1849 it was present in all mainland states. Host plant for the Wanderer Butterfly.

Distinguishing features

- Erect habit
- Leaves elongated and opposite with pointed tips
- Stems & leaves exude milky sap when damaged

AFRICAN BOXTHORN

*(Lycium ferocissimum)**



An invasive shrub native to South Africa.
A declared noxious weed in Australia.



Distinguishing features

- Long, rigid branches often at right angles to stem
- Leaves mostly obovate (widest towards the tip)
- Stout spines

MALVASTRUM

*(Malvastrum americanum)**



An introduced species native to tropical America.



Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate, finely hairy
- Leaf margins toothed
- Flowers more or less sessile (no stem)

TURNIP WEED

*(Rapistrum rugosum)**



Lower leaf



Upper leaf

An invasive exotic weed common in agricultural areas. It has the potential to outcompete native species and thus reduce native plant diversity.

Distinguishing features

- Erect branching habit
- Leaf margins toothed
- Basal leaves broad, upper leaves narrow

BRAZILIAN NIGHTSHADE

*(Solanum seaforthianum)**



An invasive vine native to Central/Tropical America and the Caribbean.

Distinguishing features

- Leaves alternate and deeply lobed
- Leaves concolourous (same colour both sides)

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