

top **20** natives

In the past 20 years we have seen a revolution in the world of native plants, with new cultivars being bred to be tougher and more compact, with bigger and better flowers. Here are our best of the best.

1

Shady Lady waratahs

Waratahs are notoriously difficult to grow, but the Shady Lady series has gone a long way towards providing less temperamental plants that can grow in a wider range of conditions. They come in crimson, red, white and yellow shades.



2 *Bush Gem kangaroo paws*
This range has given gardeners the chance to successfully grow disease-resistant kangaroo paws in a huge range of colours.



3 *Lomandra 'Tanika'*
Lomandras have evolved from their bush ancestry. 'Tanika' was the start of the revolution, looking stylish with fine leaves, masses of flowers and a compact form, while handling sun, shade, drought and frost.



4 *Brachyscome 'Mauve Delight'*
This delightful native daisy flowers nearly all year round. With its compact suckering habit and divided foliage, it makes a great groundcover for rockeries, pots and borders.



5 *Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream'*
'Peaches and Cream' features delicate, orange and lemon-yellow flower heads and it's always flowering! Forming a spreading shrub only 1.2m tall, it's ideal for small gardens.



6 *Acacia leprosa 'Scarlet Blaze'*
This blood-red cinnamon wattle was discovered in a Victorian forest in 1995 by two bushwalkers. It's difficult to propagate but availability of this unique plant is set to increase.



7 *Banksia 'Cherry Candles'*
Retaining the size of the flowers but shrinking the plant has given us wonderful banksia cultivars such as 'Cherry Candles' and 'Birthday Candles'. They are perfect for pots.



8 *Federation Star flannel flowers*
The release of Federation Star has made flannel flowers more accessible to gardeners. These compact natives were bred at The Australian Botanic Garden, Mt Annan in NSW.



9 *Correa 'Federation Belle'*
Fast-growing and with larger flowers than the species correas, 'Federation Belle' is one of many new cultivars. This compact shrub offers winter flowers for birds and gardens.



10 *New generation dianellas*
Lovely new forms of dianella are constantly becoming available with variations in size and leaf colour, but they all share the common trait of being virtually indestructible.



11 *Syzygium 'Cascade'*
A compact lillypilly that has the best of its parents, *S. luehmannii* and *S. wilsonii*. Its new growth is bright pink with a weeping habit. It also has large, red powderpuff flowers and is resistant to psyllids.



12 *Acacia 'Limelight'*
A fluffy, weeping, mounding form of *Acacia cognata*, 'Limelight' just begs you to sit on it! Staying only 50cm–1m tall and wide, it is beautiful in a pot, mass planted or on its own as a feature in a garden.

Photos: Angus Stewart/Ian Hofstetter/Australian National Botanic Gardens/Sam McAdam



13 *Eucalyptus*
'Summer Red'

This was the first of several different-coloured grafted flowering gums. It allowed east-coast gardeners to grow the beautiful and compact flowering gums of the western states.



14 *Eucalyptus*
'Little Spotty'

With ornamental white bark spotted with red, this slender tree is ideal for small gardens. It can be trained into a multi-stemmed mallee form or kept with one trunk.



15 *Pandorea Aussie*
Bellz series

Bred by Angus Stewart's daughter, Daisy, these fast-growing but compact climbers produce large clusters of flowers at the end of each stem from spring through to autumn.



16 *Hardenbergia*
'Flat White'

Forming a 4m-wide carpet of white flowers in late winter and early spring, this was the first truly prostrate hardenbergia. It also comes in a purple form called 'Carpet Royale'.



17 *Agonis flexuosa*
'After Dark'

A cultivar of the Western Australian willow myrtle, 'After Dark' features amazing burgundy to purple foliage all year round. It makes an excellent small feature tree.



18 *Bracteantha*
Sundaze series

This series of strawflowers has given us long-lived forms with flowers in many sizes and colours. They're gorgeous in the garden or in large pots and last well as a cut flower.



19 *Syzygium*
'Tiny Trev'

This compact, small-leaved lillypilly grows to only a metre tall. It is brilliant as a hedge and offers an excellent alternative to a traditional buxus hedge. It's also easy to clip and makes very good topiary.



20 *Wollemi pine*

Since being discovered in a still-secret location in the Wollemi National Park, the Wollemi pine has been cultivated so everyone can grow one. Its uses include hedges, bonsai and living Christmas trees.