



ballina shire

URBAN GARDEN GUIDE

Gardening the environmentally friendly way



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shire council





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Gardening the environmentally friendly way

Why have an environmental Garden Guide?

- Help protect the environment
- Promote urban biodiversity
- Provide relevant environmental information to residents
- Reduce queries to Council
- Proactive approach to weed control





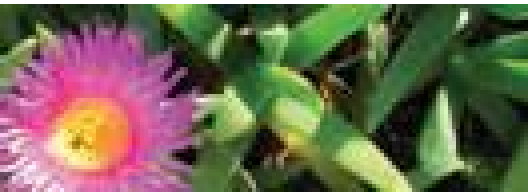
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Ballina Shire's Urban Garden Guide

- Assist residents of urban townships plan and plant their gardens
 - Save water, energy, time and money
- Promote plants complementary to the surrounding environment
- Present a diverse selection of aesthetic local native plant species
 - Compete against those favourite invasive species!!





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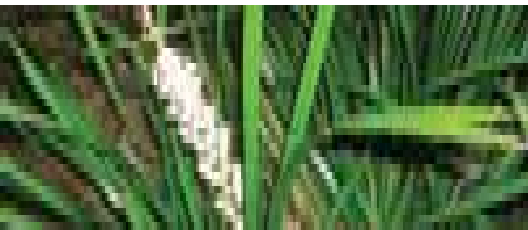
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Garden Guide Details

- 48 page, A5 size, glossy booklet
- 10,000 copies printed for residents
- Printed on chlorine free plantation pulp stock
- Downloadable off Ballina Council website:

www.ballinacouncil.com.au





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How Garden Guide was prepared?

- Formed the Ballina Urban Garden Guide Committee
- 8 representatives from the Nursery and Bush Regeneration industries and Australian Plant Society
- Developed plant selection criteria: attractive, non invasive, easily propagated, urban and child friendly, fauna attracting, suited to soils, rainfall and climate
 - Hundreds of plant photos taken
 - Many hours of species debate





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Contents of Urban Garden Guide

- Contents simply cover the why, how and what to plant in urban gardens

- Topics include: basic garden design principles, water efficient gardening, successful planting techniques, mulching, composting, avoiding mosses, alternatives to pesticides, popular Australian plant groups, extensive plant list, native plants for hedges, indoors, vines and rainforest gardens, environmental weeds and weed control.

- 48 pages packed full of environmental benefits and info





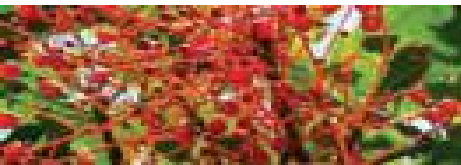
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Comprehensive Guide to the Best Plants

- Detailed yet simple tables covering groundcovers, shrubs and trees endemic to Ballina Shire and native to Australia
- Plants are listed with botanical and common names describing height, width, flower colour with comments provided
- Describes individual plant qualities that include preference or tolerance to shade, sun, salt spray, wet areas and bush foods





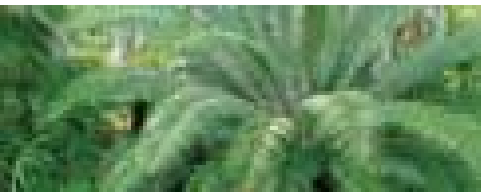
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Results so far

- Approx 5,000 copies handed out so far to keen gardeners at 11 distribution points
 - Many positive comments from residents – even outside shire and state
 - Many residents now planting endemic and native species
 - Nurseries in area taking a greater interest in species stock selection
 - Linkages with DCP 1, BASIX guidelines, BFNS and draft Market Policy
 - Radio and poster presentations





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How it was funded?

- NPWS Backyard Buddies Grant - \$10,000

- Ballina Council

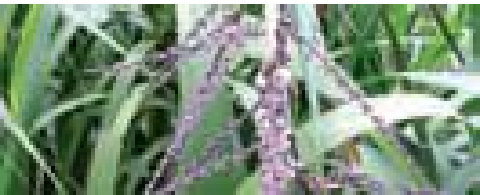
- Open Spaces and Reserves - \$6,000 includes in-kind

- Water and Sewer - \$8,000

- Waste Services - \$1,000

- In-kind technical expertise from Committee members

- Total cost = \$25,000





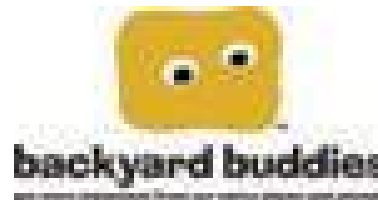
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Acknowledgements

- Ballina Shire Urban Garden Guide Committee Members
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- Printing - Platypus Graphics



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