

Coastal Native Plants of Limestone Coast

Identification Chart

Coastal Wattle
Acacia longifolia subsp. sophorae



Bushy large shrub. Seed traditionally consumed by Aboriginal people. Prolific yellow flowers in late winter to early spring.

1.5 - 10 m

Bidgee Widgee
Acaena novae-zelandiae



Fuzzy flowerheads in spring-summer cling to animal fur and clothing like Velcro. Food source for birds, including Orange-bellied Parrot.

up to 0.3 m

Coast Bitter-bush
Adriana quadripartita



Erect shrub occurring in dunes in southern Australia. Host plant for bitter-bush blue butterfly.

1 - 3 m

Drooping She-oak
Allocasuarina verticillata



Long thin drooping grey-green "leaves" are actually branchlets. Male and female flowers occur on separate trees (dioecious).

4 - 10 m

Sea Box
Alyxia buxifolia



Tough leaves make this shrub tolerant of salt spray. Very small white flowers in spring-summer, followed by showy red berries.

up to 3 m

Sea Celery
Apium prostratum



Edible leaves helped early colonists stave off scurvy. Looks and tastes similar to European parsley.

0.3 m

Grey Saltbush
Atriplex cinerea



Fast growing shrub with fleshy blue-grey foliage.

up to 1.5 m

Coast Spear-grass
Austrostipa stipioides



A spiky grass that forms tussocks on cliffs and dunes.

up to 0.8 m

Bare Twig-rush
Machaerina juncea



Grass-like sedge. Found in all states of Australia.

0.2 - 1.2 m

Sweet Apple-berry
Billardiera cymosa



Climbing plant with dark green leaves with mauve five-petaled flowers. Flowering in spring, followed by dark purple berries in summer.

0.25 m

Pink Fingers
Caladenia carnea



One to three pale pink flowers with four "petals" pointing forward and one pointing upwards. Labellum has a yellow tip. Green leaf is short and narrow with a fold along the middle.

0.25 m

Pigface
Carpobrotus rossii



Fleshy groundcover, grows in dunes and on cliffs. Bright pink flowers from spring to early summer, followed by edible red fruit.

0.2 m

Old Man's Beard
Clematis microphylla



Fine leaf climber; naturally scrambles up other plants. Distinctive cream flowers and fluffy seed clusters. Birds use fluffy seed as nesting material.

up to 1.6 m

Flax-lilies
Dianella spp.



A strappy tussock forming plant. Blue-purple flowers in spring-summer, followed by oval-shaped purple berries. Not all species are edible. Roots of some species traditionally used in cold medicine.

up to 1.6 m

Coastal Ballart
Exocarpos syrticola



Stiff shrub with erect branchlets. This shrub is semi-parasitic, taking nutrients through the roots of other plants.

1 - 2 m

Knobby Club-rush
Ficinia nodosa



Large clumped rush with distinctive brown knobby seed heads. Habitat for small animals like frogs and skinks. Grows in a variety of environments.

0.5 - 1.5 m

Holly Grevillea
Grevillea aquifolium



Strikingly holly-shaped leaves and toothbrush-like red-pink flowers. Sometimes grows prostrate.

up to 3 m

Sand Ixodia
Ixodia achillieoides subsp. arenicola



Rare plant found on exposed rocky cliffs. Prolific white daisy flowers in spring-summer.

0.1 - 0.5 m

Sea Rush
Juncus kraussii



Many traditional uses for stems and leaves including string and weaving. Native to three continents.

up to 2.3 m

Muntries
Kunzea pomifera



Prostrate shrub that grows in sandy soils, both coastal and inland. Edible red-purple berries in February.

0.2 m

Drooping Velvet-bush
Lasiopetalum schulzenii



Soft heart-shaped leaves and hairy white flowers. Grows on limestone cliffs.

1 m

Coastal Sword-sedge
Lepidosperma gladiatum



Wide strappy leaves, usually found in sandy areas.

up to 1 m

Cushion Bush
Leucophyta brownii



Dense grey bushes with inconspicuous yellow flowerheads. Smells like honey with flowering in summer. Commonly used in landscaping.

up to 1 m

Coast Beard-heath
Leucopogon parviflorus



Small white fruits in summer are enjoyed by many native birds.

2 - 4 m

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Identification Chart

Toothed Mat-rush
Lomandra longifolia



Rounded tussocks. Food source for lizards (seeds), birds, and butterfly larvae (leaves). Hardy.

0.5 - 1 m

Austral Trefoil
Lotus australis



Soft trifoliate (with three parts) leaves. Bright pink pea flowers in spring-summer.

0.6 m

Dry-land Tea-tree
Melaleuca lanceolata



Dense shrub with white bottlebrush flowers from Oct to Mar. Birds and insects attracted to its nectar.

1 - 8 m

Climbing Lignum
Muehlenbeckia adpressa



Large heart-shaped leaves on twining stems.

1 - 8 m

Boobialla
Myoporum insulare



Sometimes called Native Juniper due to the flavour of purple fruit that appear in late summer.

1 - 6 m

Coast Daisy-bush
Olearia axillaris



Common shrub in sandy soils and cliff tops. Resembles the herb Rosemary. Foliage is fragrant when crushed and used as insect repellent by Aboriginal people.

1 - 2 m

Coast Everlasting
Ozothamnus turbinatus



Common in dunes and limestone cliffs. Small white tubular flowers in clusters.

2 m

Large-fruited SA Blue gum
Eucalyptus leucoxylon megalocarpa



Characteristic large fruit and prominent white, pink or red flowers

5 - 8 m

Thyme Rice-flower
Pimelea serpyllifolia subsp. *serpyllifolia*



Low compact shrub. Often grows on limestone cliffs.

up to 1 m

Coast Pomaderris
Pomaderris paniculosa



Medium shrub with elliptical leaves on rusty hairy branchlets.

1 - 3 m

Sea-berry Salt-bush
Rhagodia candolleana



Common on dunes and cliffs. Thick shiny leaves. Dark red fruit in autumn.

up to 1.5 m

Beaded Glasswort
Sarcocornia quinqueflora



Succulent fleshy stems, sometimes red-tipped. Seed is a food source for critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrots.

0.2 m

Dune Fan-flower
Scaevola calendulacea



Prostrate plant with thick leaves. Blue fan-shaped flowers can be seen most of the year.

0.3 m

Kangaroo Apple
Solanum laciniatum



A colonising plant of disturbed areas. In same family as tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant, but fruit not edible unless soft and over-ripe (CAUTION: poisonous if under-ripe).

1 - 3 m

Satin-leaved Spinifex
Spinifex hirsutus



Grass with soft hairy silver leaves. Creeping roots stabilise dunes.

0.5 m

Varibale Groundsel
Senecio pinnatifolius



Upright to sprawling annual with bright green sometime jagged leaves. Large yellow daisy-type flowers in spring/summer, attracts insects.

up to 1 m

Legend

- Trees
- Larger Shrubs
- Understory plants/smaller shrubs
- Climbing Plants
- Ground covers
- Grasses
- Saltbush
- Reeds/sedges
- Butterfly-attracting
- Bird-attracting
- Traditional use

Native Storksbill
Pelargonium australe



Typical geranium shaped leaves and flowers. Small pink flowers in spring-summer.

up to 0.5 m

Coast Swainson-pea
Swainsona lessertiifolia



Scrambling plant with paired (pinnate) leaves. Spikes of purple flowers appear from June to Oct.

0.5 m

Bower Spinach
Tetragona implexicoma



Diamond-shaped fleshy leaves on long stems. Very small yellow flowers in spring. Grows in thick ground covering mats and also as a climber.

0.2 m

Kidney Weed
Dichondra repens



Bright green kidney-shaped leaves. Usually found in damper/shaded areas along the coast.

0.05 m

Running Postman
Kennedia prostrata



Prostrate runner with showy bright red (rarely white) pea flowers. Leaves are trifoliate (in three pieces). Food source for butterfly larvae.

0.1 m

Common Correa
Correa reflexa var. *reflexa*



Shrub with pink-red bell-shaped flowers in cooler months. Dark shiny leaves. Winter food source for nectar-feeding birds.

0.3 - 3 m

Many thanks to the following who kindly supplied photographs: June Niejalke (JN), Jonathan Tuck (JT), Kevin Sparrow (KS), Jess Bouchier (JB), Rose Thompson (RT), Bryan Haywood (BH).