

Bush Foods

Common Species in Vegetation Type 17

Grasses



Image: Kaye Kessing

Cyperus bulbosus
Yalka, Nutgrass

Roots produce small bulbs that are sometimes eaten raw or roasted in hot coals.



Dactyloctenium radulans
Button Grass, Finger Grass, Toothbrush Grass
Seeds are dehusked and eaten.



Image: Jenny Purdie

Eragrostis dielsii
Mallee Lovegrass

Seeds are dehusked and eaten, whole or ground.



Eragrostis eriopoda
Woollybutt Grass, Naked Woollybutt, Wire Wanderrie
Grass, Never Fail

Seeds are dehusked and eaten, whole or ground.

Groundcovers and Forbs



Abutilon otocarpum

Keeled Lantern-bush, Desert Chinese Lantern

Seeds can be eaten without preparation and have a pleasant nutty flavour.



Boerhavia repleta

Tar Vine

Roots are edible and collected once active growing has ceased.



Cleome viscosa

Tickweed, Mustard Bush

Seeds may be eaten.



Image: *Lepidium* sp.

Lepidium muelleriferdinandi

Muellers Pepperpress

and

Lepidium phlebopetalum

Veined Pepperpress

Plant eaten immediately after being steamed, stems hammered to a pulp before being eaten. Eaten raw but strong flavour. Seeds in pods also eaten.



Portulaca oleracea
Munyeroo, Pigweed, Purslane

Seeds roasted and ground to a paste before being eaten.
Roots cooked and eaten. Leaves and stems steamed and eaten.



Image: Jenny Purdie

Vigna lanceolata var. latifolia
Pencil Yam, Maloga Bean, Parsnip Bean

Swollen roots (juicy, starchy organs) of the plant are edible,
eaten raw or baked in hot sand and ashes.



Wahlenbergia tumidifructa
Tugid-fruited Bluebell

Flowers of Wahlenbergia species can be eaten.

Vines

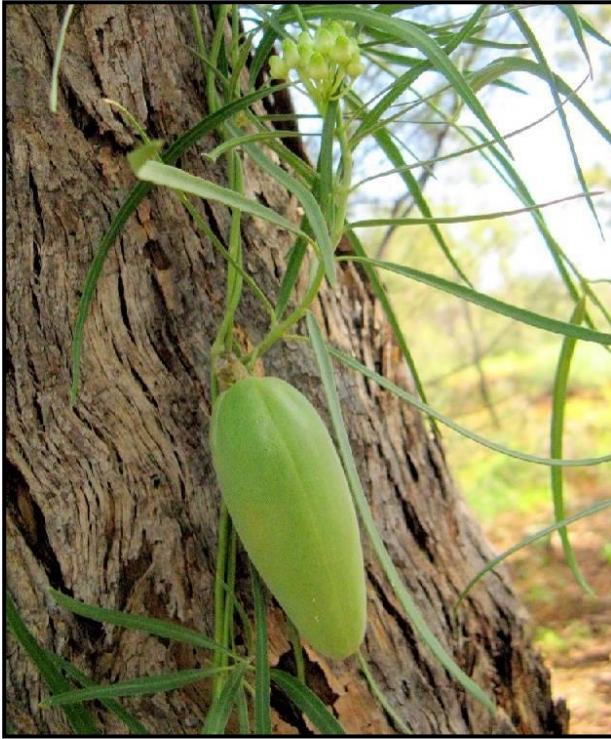


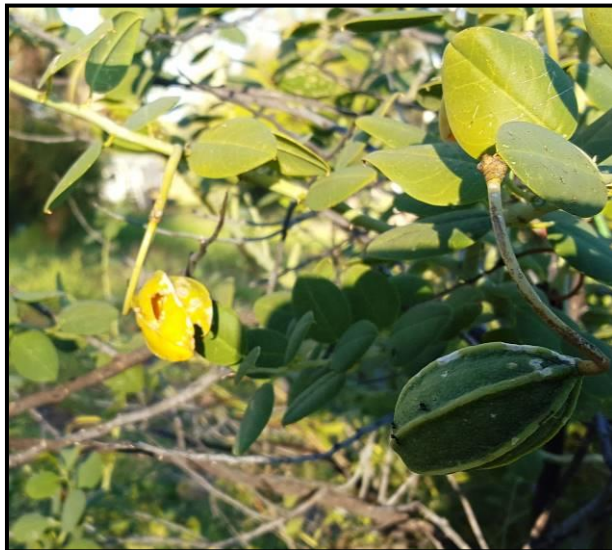
Image: Barbara Gilfedder

Marsdenia australis

Bush Banana, Lungkwa, Doubah

Flowers and young fruits are eaten raw. Mature fruits are cooked and eaten whole or outer rind eaten. Young leaves eaten without preparation. Mature leaves steamed before being eaten.

Shrubs



Capparis spinosa var. nummularia **Caper Bush, Wild Passionfruit, Nipan**

Fruit is edible.



Enchylaena tomentosa var. tomentosa **Ruby Saltbush, Sturts Saltbush, Plum Puddings, Berry Cottonbush**

Berries are eaten when ripe and juicy. Dried berries can be reconstituted in water.



Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia
Desert Cassia, Broom Bush, Puntty Bush
Seeds eaten after treatment.

Trees



Acacia estrophiolata
Ironwood

Seeds are removed with some difficulty and eaten, white gum exuded from the trunk by boring insects is edible.



Acacia murrayana
Colony Wattle, Murrays Wattle

Seeds are roasted and ground to make an edible paste, or eaten green after roasting the pod. White gum exuded from insect damage is edible.



Acacia tetragonophylla
Dead Finish, Kurara

Green seeds are cooked in the pod before being eaten.



Acacia victoriae subsp. arida
Acacia Bush, Bramble Wattle, Victoria Wattle

Green seeds are lightly roasted in the pod before being eaten. Hard-coated mature seeds are ground before being eaten. White gum exuded from the trunk is sometimes eaten.



Atalaya hemiglauca
Whitewood

White sap exuded from the trunk is edible.



Capparis mitchellii
Wild Orange, Native Orange, Bumble, Native Pomegranate

Yellow pulp of fruit is edible and pleasant initially, with unpleasant aftertaste.



Image: Barbara Gilfedder

Eucalyptus coolabah
Coolabah

Seeds are left to dry for several days before being cleaned and ground to a paste, which is eaten raw or cooked.



Grevillea striata
Beefwood

Seeds are eaten.



Hakea divaricata
Fork-leaved Corkwood

Seeds are eaten without preparation. Honey is sucked from flowers or steeped in water.

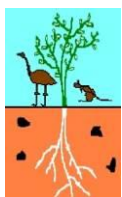


Ventilago viminalis
Supplejack, Vine Tree

White sap exuded from the trunk from insect wounds is edible.

References

Latz, P.K. (1995). *Bushfires and Bushtucker: Aboriginal Plant Use in Central Australia*. IAD Press: Alice Springs, NT.



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