



IMPROVING YOUR BLOCK- FAUNA FRIENDLY GARDENING

Useful Websites

[www.floraforfauna.com.au/
about/about.asp](http://www.floraforfauna.com.au/about/about.asp)

[www.urbanforest.on.net/
backyard.htm](http://www.urbanforest.on.net/backyard.htm)

[www.ozemail.com.au/
~casliber/
nativealternative.html](http://www.ozemail.com.au/~casliber/nativealternative.html)

[www.nccnsw.org.au/
member/cbn/projects/
earthalive/Garden.html](http://www.nccnsw.org.au/member/cbn/projects/earthalive/Garden.html)

[www.museum.wa.gov.au/
frogwatch](http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch)

Glossary

Local Plants

Those that have evolved in your local area, on your local soil type, under your local conditions and your fauna has evolved with.

References

Backyard Blitz! Creating Fauna Friendly Backyards. Bush Skills for the Hills. Shire of Kalamunda.

For More Information

Contact

Swan Catchment Centre
Tel: (08) 9220 5300
Web:
[www.wrc.wa.gov.au/
swanavon/](http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/swanavon/)

Introduction

Coming from a conventionally beautiful garden to create a fauna-friendly garden often requires a changed mindset. In a fauna-friendly garden, the plants have a "higher purpose" in that they are providers of food, shelter and breeding sites.

Gardens dominated by introduced exotic species may look beautiful, but may be devoid of the types of food and shelter needed by local birds, animals and insects.

Fauna-Friendly Gardening

- Creates mini ecosystem
- Attracts range of fauna; butterflies, frogs, lizards, marsupials etc
- Dependent on location
- Different requirements but few basic factors; needs shelter, food, place to breed and water.

Benefits

Of local plants are enormous!

- Provides food for nectar-feeding birds and insects.
- Need little or no water and fertiliser, unless they are wetland species.
- Frogs and native fish eat pest insects
- More environmentally friendly
- Less costly than conventional gardening

What you can do

- Plan your garden so there is

always something in flower and aim to create a diverse community of different native plants and insects.

- Plant local native plants at the start of winter
- Add selected species to attract certain animals to your garden.
- Be careful when deciding where to plant species as some are sensitive to fertilisers and over-watering, such as: banksias and grevilleas.

Water

Attracts range of fauna. Sources;

- Bird-baths (raised above ground with good visibility)-keep topped up and birds will come back
- Ponds-plant sedges and water plants around it
- Provide suitable permanent water.

Insects and Spiders

- Plant local eucalypt and taller shrub species local to different parts of Perth
- Establish leaf litter from native plants-provides habitat and shelter for insects
- Place rocks and logs in garden
- Keep spider and spider web eradication to a minimum as they are a source of food and are needed as part of the ecosystem.

Frogs

- "Indicator" species: their presence is a sign that things are going well in the

environment.

Need frog pond (mini-ecosystem); structure will determine which species of frogs will live there.

Birds

- Need to reproduce structure of your local bushland; need trees (take notice of overhead power lines-contact Western Power)
- Plant local species of eucalypt, local banksias and *Agonis flexuosa*
- Provide smaller shrubs (grevilleas and verticordias for food)
- Are attracted to the red end of the colour spectrum
- Need cobwebs for nests

Butterflies

- Declining in numbers in urban areas due to loss of habitat.
- Highly specialised in their requirements
- Are adapted to live on only a few species of native plants
- Plant *Kennedia prostrata*

Some Things to Avoid

- Use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers and snail pellets (can cause death)
- Having pets. It is estimated that even a well-fed pet cat could kill an average of 32 animals each year (Land for Wildlife No 25) or keep them confined.
- Introduced aquatic plants (can cause significant problems)

In partnership with

