

ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY.



Bringing nature back

The Rockhampton Region is a great place and we want to ensure it stays that way, both now and in the future.

Trees, shrubs and grasses play an important role in our streets, parks and riparian corridors, as well as in our very own backyards. Not only do they provide food and shelter for wildlife, they give the Region its unique character and provide a cooler and more attractive environment for us to live in.

The Bringing Nature Back program is a key initiative under Rockhampton Regional Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Let's work together to protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment.

BLUE TONGUE

COMMON NAME	Blue tongue
BOTANICAL NAME	<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> (<i>Melastomataceae</i> family)
DESCRIPTION	Showy shrub with attractive flowers. Popular for birds.
HABIT	Shrub 1-3m tall.
FLOWERS / FRUIT	Large pinkish/purple flowers in Spring to Autumn. Seeds are reddish capsules, each with dark, almost black pulp.
LEAVES / STEMS	Leaf blades, covered in fine hairs, each leaf has longitudinal veins running down them.
MAINTENANCE	Very hardy, often used in roadside landscaping.
ECOLOGY	Usually grows along roads or in disturbed areas in rain forest, wet areas, open forest and heath.



Species information proudly provided by
Native Plants Capricornia
www.nativeplantscapricornia.org.au

Rockhampton
Regional Council

NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT.

PLANTING YOUR NATIVE

1. Ensure you have the right plant in the right place in your yard for the right reasons. Always think before you plant and consider the following:
 - What space do you have available in your yard for a new plant?
 - What constraints do you have in terms of potential height, overhanging branches and root systems in relation to your property or neighbouring boundary lines?
 - Are there any issues related to visibility from your driveway, intersection sight lines and access to your property?
 - Are there any overhead or underground services, including the service line to your home?
 - Is a 'Dial Before You Dig' check required to request information on underground cables and services on, or near your property?
 - What type of tree/shrub is best suited to your yard?
 - Do you want an evergreen or deciduous plant?
 - Does the mature plant's roots, branches, sap, flowers or fruits have the potential to obstruct buildings, fences, pools, footpaths, roads, foundations or vehicle paintwork?
 - If you require advice about planting in public areas, check Council's Tree Management Policy available via the website or contact Customer Service for more information on the local street tree planting guidelines.
2. Clear any grass or mulch to expose the soil.
3. Dig a hole twice the size and depth of the pot.
4. Mix fertiliser in with the soil in the hole.
5. Water the seedling and hole before planting.
6. Plant the seedling slightly below the ground level and back-fill the hole.
7. Make a small well around the plant to catch water.
8. Mulch around the plant, ensuring no mulch touches the stem.
9. Water thoroughly after planting.
10. Check in on your plant and water regularly:
 - Month 1 - twice a week
 - Month 2 & 3 - once a week
 - Beyond 3 months - once a month

NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM

Trees, shrubs and grasses provide an important social, economic and environmental benefit to the community. Council's Nursery provide a range of native plants that are made available to residents of the Rockhampton Region by the Environmental Sustainability unit at local events such as National Tree Day and Tropicana.

Content acknowledgements:
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Banner photo: Scrubby Creek by Allannah Betts
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