



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 Sustainability Strategy.

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

HOLLY HEDGE

COMMON NAME Holly hedge

BOTANICAL NAME *Graptophyllum excelsum x ilicifolium*
(*Acanthaceae* family)

DESCRIPTION Compact hybrid shrub that combines the best traits of parent species: the flowering of *G. excelsum* (Scarlet fuchsia) and the holly-like foliage of *G. ilicifolium* (Holly-leaved fuchsia). Attracts beneficial pollinators.

HABIT Medium shrub to 4m.

FLOWERS / FRUIT Bright scarlet-red tubular waxy flowers cover the shrub in spring.

LEAVES / STEMS Evergreen shrub with shiny holly-like leaves and toothed margins.

MAINTENANCE Suitable for growing in pots. Prefers full sun to part shade position in well-drained soil. Can tolerate dry spells once established and is relatively tolerant to frost. Trim back after flowering for more compact growth. Benefits from a little native fertiliser once a year.

ECOLOGY The parent species are native to Queensland, Australia.



Information provided in collaboration with
Native Plants Capricornia
www.nativeplantscapricornia.org.au


Rockhampton
Regional Council

PLANTING YOUR NATIVE

BEFORE YOU PLANT

Make sure you choose the right plant for the right place in your yard.

Take some time to consider:

- **Available space:** Is there room for the plant to grow to its full height and width?
- **Potential constraints:** Could mature height, overhanging branches, or root systems affect your home, neighbours, or boundary lines?
- **Visibility:** Will the plant obstruct sight lines from your driveway, footpath, or nearby intersections?
- **Services:** Are there overhead powerlines or underground utilities on or near your property, including the service line to your home?
- **Before You Dig Australia:** Do you need a BYDA check to confirm the location of underground cables and services?
- **Plant suitability:** Which species best suits your yard's conditions (sun, soil, drainage, evergreen/deciduous)?
- **Potential impacts:** Could the plant's roots, leaves, branches, sap, flowers, or fruit cause issues for buildings, fences, pools, foundations, footpaths, roads or vehicles?

HOW TO PLANT YOUR TREE OR SHRUB

1. Clear away any grass or mulch to expose the soil.
2. Dig a hole twice the width and depth of the pot.
3. Mix a small amount of fertiliser through the soil in the base of the hole.
4. Water both the seedling and the hole before planting.
5. Place the plant in the hole so the top of the root ball sits slightly below ground level, then backfill with soil.
6. Create a small watering well around the plant to help direct water to the roots.
7. Apply mulch around the plant, keeping mulch away from the stem to prevent rot.
8. Water thoroughly after planting.
9. Continue caring for your plant by watering regularly:
Month 1: twice a week
Months 2–3: once a week
Beyond 3 months: once a month
(or more often during hot, dry periods).

NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM

Council provides residents with free native plants at nominated dates and sites in the lead up to National Tree Day each year.
Find out more on Council's website.

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