



Ararat Rural City

Native Flora Guide





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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Ararat Rural City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work, the Eastern Maar, Barengi Gadjin (the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, and Jupagulk peoples of the Wotjobaluk Nations), and Wadawurrung peoples, and recognise their connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.





Introduction

Ararat is home to many vegetation communities, each of which provide habitat to unique and diverse native plant species. 140 Ecological Vegetation Classes, and 6 Bioregions occur within the Ararat Municipality, each of which is home to a distinctive composition of native species.

A comprehensive survey of the environments within Ararat found that within these EVCS, a further 473 individual habitat types exist across Ararat. These habitats include woodlands, wetlands, forests and grasslands across plains, foothills and peaks of mountains on a range of geologies such as basalt, granite, and amphibolite.

Over 200 of the of the plants found across Ararat are rare and threatened and are protected under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

There are also five vegetation communities within the municipality which are listed under this act:

- Creek line Grassy Woodland (Goldfields Bioregion)
- Grey Box-Buloke Grassy Woodland
- Red Gum Swamp (No. 1)
- Western Basalt Plains Grasslands
- Western Basalt Plants Grassy woodland (River Red Gum)

This document provides a snapshot of some of the wonderful common, and rare, plants that can be found across Ararat.

More information about what plants can be found where across Ararat municipality can be found on the [Native Planting page](#) on the Ararat Rural City Council website.





Key

Abundance (2023-2025 survey):

- Very Rare: <3 records
- Rare: 3-10 records
- Uncommon: 10-100 records
- Common: 100-1,000 records
- Widespread: 1,000-10,000 records
- Very widespread: >10,000 records

Status:

- LC: Least Concern
- VU: Vulnerable
- EN: Endangered
- CE: Critically Endangered
- Aus: Listed under the Australian EPBC Act only
- Vic: Listed under the Victorian FFG Act only



Ferns



Ferns



Blanket Fern (*Pleurosorus rutifolius*)

Small tufted fern with rust-coloured hairs covering its fan-shaped fronds. Persists in rock crevices and gorges within woodlands and forests. Will shrink in extreme dryness, becoming revived and green after rain.

- Rare
- LC



Bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*)

Large growing fern with individual, dark green fronds pairing up each stem. Common and widespread, very tolerant of a range of soil, sun, frost and disturbance conditions. Typically, the first plant to re-establish after fire and often prevents growth from other plants. Provide moist microclimates for invertebrates.

- Widespread
- LC



Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum aethiopicum*)

Delicate fern of lacy, yellow green fronds sprouting from slim, red-brown stems. Found along shady creeks and foothills of moist to dry forests and woodlands. In the right conditions, can grow in connected colonies reaching 10m in length.

- Uncommon
- LC



Climbers

Climbers



Coarse Dodder-laurel (*Cassytha melanantha*)

Semi-parasitic climber which attaches to stems of hosts and loses roots when mature. Has tiny white flowers and round, edible fruits which grow on its twinning, yellow, leafless stems. Found in dry forests and woodland, usually growing on smooth barked eucalypts.

- Common
- LC



Drooping Mistletoe (*Amyema pendula* subsp. *longifolia*)

A mistletoe growing to 1m in length, with long green leaves and bright red-yellow hanging flower clusters. Fruits and flowers provide food for birds, caterpillars and other insects. Commonly spread by the Mistletoe bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*). Usually found on host eucalyptus and acacia species, in forests and woodlands.

- Rare
- CE (Vic)



Holly Grevillea (*Grevillea aquifolium*)

A highly variable Grevillea with leaves similar to those of the English holly. Can grow as a ground cover or a scrambling/climbing shrub. Bright red to yellow "toothbrush" flowers which all grow on a single side of the stem. Found in the wetter soils of woodland, open forests and heathland.

- Uncommon
- LC

A close-up photograph of several grass seed heads. The seed heads are a warm, golden-brown color and have a spiky, textured appearance. They are attached to thin, green stems. The background is blurred, showing more of the same grasses and some hints of a reddish-brown structure, possibly a fence or building. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Grasses

Grasses



Salt-Lake Tussock-Grass (*Poa sallacustris*)

A rare, mat-forming tussock grass endemic to south west Volcanic Plains of Victoria. Found on the edges of salty and brackish lakes found in grasslands and herb fields. The grass is bright green in colour during the winter months, and pale-yellow during spring, summer and autumn.

- Rare
- CE (Vic), VU (Aus)



Brown-Black Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma duttoniana*)

Densely tufted grass commonly found on the damp and wet soils of grassy lowlands of south eastern Australia. Flowers are reddish or dark brown in colour. Can grow up to 80cm in height.

- Common
- LC



Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*)

Tufted grass, similar in appearance to many species of Wallaby Grass, which is found across grasslands and woodlands in Australia and internationally. Has striking blue-green foliage and bronze-coloured, leafy florets. Key diet component for kangaroos and wallabies, and habitat for reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.

- Widespread
- LC



Narrow-leaf Cumbungi (*Typha domingensis*)

Robust, semi-aquatic grass with cane like foliage, and large brown cylinder flowers. Grows extensively in swamps, lakes, edges of streams, dams and irrigation channels. Provides habitat for frogs, as well as nesting material and refuge for native waterbirds.

- Common
- LC



Spiny-head Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)

Widely distributed grass with wide, bright green leaves, and spikey flower clusters. Tolerant of a range of environmental conditions, is mostly found in heathy woodland, forests and woodland. Attracting and a food source for native birds and butterflies.

- Common
- LC



Streaked Arrowgrass (*Triglochin striatum*)

Slender, semi-aquatic grass found across Australia and internationally. Has long flower spikes adorned with tiny green-white flowers. Usually found in herb fields and wetlands where it grows in and on the verges of waterbodies. Provides habitat for frogs.

- Uncommon
- LC



Herbs

Herbs



Bidgee-widgee (*Acaena novaezelandiae*)

Spreading, matting ground cover with dark green leaves and small white flowers. Reddish fruits are covered in burrs, allowing dispersal by attaching to animal fur. Grows readily on a range of soil types along the edges of forests, grasslands, and scrublands.

- Common
- LC



Cottony Fireweed (*Senecio quadridentatus*)

A tallish herb growing up to 1m in height, has narrow, long green-grey leaves and tiny green-yellow flowers. Reshoots after high heat in summer, fire and other disturbances. Persists in urban environments. Seeds provide food for rosellas and moth larvae.

- Widespread
- LC



Eastern Mantis Orchid (*Caladenia tentaculata*)

A spider orchid with large, slender, flowers that have white-green petals and a dark red centre. Most commonly found growing in heathlands, woodlands and forests. Pollinated by insects.

- Uncommon
- LC



Native Primrose (*Goodenia geniculata*)

A small trailing herb with long green leaves and large, vibrant, hairy yellow flowers: similar in appearance to a dandelion. Hardy and common, grows in open forests and along rockeries. Pollinated by insects.

- Common
- LC



Spiral Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra matthewsii*)

Small sized orchid with a single, to a pair, of bright purple flowers with yellow centres. Single spiral leaf from the stem. Prefers open forests and woodlands, able to colonise environments after disturbance. Typically disappears when taller plants become common in its habitat.

- Uncommon
- EN



Wax-Lip Orchid (*Glossodia major*)

Common orchid with striking purple, or occasionally white, flowers, and haired foliage growing at the base. Grows in open dry forests, woodland, heathland, shrubland and grassland, in particular abundance after fire. Often grows in colonies.

- Common
- LC



Shrubs and Small Trees

Shrubs and Small Trees



Erect Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia riparia*)

Spreading shrub growing to 1m in height with stiff, narrow short leaves, and numerous, large yellow flowers. Found in a range of lowland forest habitats across Australia where soil is moist. Attracts both birds and insects.

- Common
- LC



Kangaroo Thorn (*Acacia paradoxa*)

A common and widespread wattle with prickly thorns and small, golden, ball shaped flowers. Used by many species of native bird for food and habitat. Found on the drier soils of open forests and woodland. Produces hard, long-lived seeds which germinate after disturbances such as fire.

- Very Widespread
- LC



Mānuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*)

Medium-sized shrub growing up to 2m in width and height with short needle-like leaves and pink-creamy flowers. Found on foot slopes, hills and plains on a range of soil types in south-east Australia and New Zealand. Pollinated by insects, bees produce the highly popular Mānuka honey from its nectar.

- Common
- LC



Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)

Common, medium sized shrub growing up to 2m in height. Can also occur as a scrambling, prostrate shrub. Flowers are pale yellow long cylindrical spikes. Seeds are usually contained within the cone until burnt. Grows in a wide variety of environments, usually moist and damp forests. Mainly pollinated by honeyeaters.

- Widespread
- LC



Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens*)

One of the rarest plants in Australia, native to Victorias grasslands, grassy woodlands and open shrublands. Grows to 30cm in height, with roots extending beyond a meter underground. Has small white flowers and pale green, oval shaped leaves. Can live for up to 100 years. Is typically dioecious: has a separate male and female plant and requires insects for pollination.

- Common
- CE



Giant Hop Bush (*Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *angustifolia*)

A hardy shrub or tree which can resprout from the base. Grows up to 4m in height, has long slender leaves and seed capsules which change colour from green, to red to purple as they mature. Grows on slopes of forests and woodlands, usually on rocks.

- Rare
- VU (Vic)



Australian Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*)

Medium sized shrubby tree growing to 4m tall with small, dark green leaves and abundant small, aromatic white flowers during the summer months. Found in open woodlands, forests, and grasslands on foothills and mountains. Utilised by native and invasive pollinators.

- Common
- LC



Medium to Large Trees



Grampians Stringybark (*Eucalyptus serraensis*)

Medium tree with dark green, aromatic leaves that typically grows 5m tall. Has rough, stringy bark on trunk and occasionally branches, and a large swelling at the base (lignotuber) which allows regrowth after fire. Grows on rocky terrains.

- Rare
- VU



Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*)

A highly common and widely distributed roughly barked tree with small, thin, pine-like foliage. Seeds are a common food source for the Yellow-Tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*). Trees are dioecious (male and female plants). Found in woodlands and plains where slopes are gentle.

- Uncommon
- LC



River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* subsp. *camaldulensis*)

One of the most well-known eucalypts, growing to 40m in height. Smooth white-grey bark with lance-shaped blue-grey leaves and white flowers. Found in woodlands and forests across Australia, usually near waterbodies. Can live for 500 to 1000 years in ideal conditions.

- Very widespread
- LC



Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)

A common eucalypt reaching 30m in height and 15m in canopy spread. Trunk base has fibrous, flaky bark of grey to yellow-brown, and leaves are long and green blue in colour. Fragrant white flowers. Upper branches are usually bare. Long-lived and slow growing, found across flats and open forests near waterbodies.

- Very widespread
- LC



Key Ways You Can Protect Native Plants

Avoid, Minimise and Offset Native vegetation Removal

- Native plants are protected by guidelines which are incorporated into the planning schemes of every local government area. You can find more information about what this means for removing, destroying or lopping native plants on your property by visiting the Protecting our Native Species page on Council's website.

Plant Natives

- You can contribute to Ararat's native vegetation communities by planting native plants on your property. To find out which plants are best suited for your property, visit the Native Planting page on Council's website.

Volunteer!

- Join local volunteer groups to vegetate and clean-up habitat and participate in citizen science programs.
- These groups include Landcare, research groups, and other environmental networks. You can find local groups [online](#).

Further Reading

- [Vicflora \(2026\)](#).
- [Yarra Ranges Council Local Plant Directory \(2026\)](#).





Contact Us

Ararat Rural City Council

59 Vincent Street,
Ararat, Victoria, Australia 3377

Ph: (03) 5355 0200

Email: council@ararat.vic.gov.au



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