

Grampians National Park (Gariwerd)

Flora Guide



Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) protects roughly one third of Victoria's flora species with 49 species endemic to the area, meaning they are not found growing anywhere else in the world. There are close to 970 native species in the park, with popular flora spotting areas including Heatherlie Quarry, Sundial Peak, The Piccaninny and Mt Zero. The plant communities reflect the differences and characteristics of the soil type, landscape, slopes and water availability of the Grampians landscape.

What makes the Grampians' flora unique?

The many millions of years of weathering of rocks has led to the diverse variation in soil types and flora communities that are found in the Grampians. Over 1300 plant species can be found in the area including 130 species of orchids.

Grampians' soils, much like most of Australia are characterised as being dry, nutrient poor and less fertile, often lacking key nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and zinc. This has meant that native plant species have adapted to survive in the low nutrient environment this land offers. Species such as the Slender Dodder-laurel have adapted to be partially parasitic, where instead of utilising a root system they draw water from the host tissue.

Fire is common in the Grampians landscape and many species are dependent on fire as part of their survival and dispersal. Fire can stimulate the opening of seed/fruit pods for many species such as the Hakea which will allow them to disperse seeds when competition is low following a fire.

Common native flora species

Austral Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*)
Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginate*)
Blackwood Wattle (*Acacia melanoxylon*)
Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*)
Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*)
Grampians Grevillea (*Grevillea confertifolia*)
Shiny Tea-tree (*Leptospermum turbinatum*)
Golden Heath (*Styphelia adscendens*)
Common Early Nancy (*Wumbea dioica*)
Grampians Thryptomene (*Thryptomene calycina*)



Common Correa (Correa reflexa)

When to visit

The Grampians flora undoubtedly blossoms during springtime, when the most colourful flowering events occur, and the orchids begin to bloom. However, the Grampians flora encompasses a wide variety of flowering times, meaning there is pollen attracting birdlife at all seasons throughout the year.

Where to find plant communities

Sub-alpine

Moist, cold, exposed sites that support dense woodland of Grampians Gum, banksias, Shiny Tea-tree and other tall shrubs. Groundcover plants include wildflowers such as Silver Daisy Bush and Mount William Beard-heath.

Areas such as Mt William, Major Mitchell Plateau, Mt Rosea

Open forest / open scrub

Messmate Stringybark, Manna Gum, Brown Stringybark and Mountain Grey Gum with dense understorey of small trees and tall shrubs such as Blackwood, Hazel Pomaderris and Victorian Christmas Bush and small shrubs such as bush-peas and correas. Ground layer plants include bracken and violets, with ferns and tree ferns occurring in moist gullies.

Areas such as the sheltered gullies of Silverband Falls

Red Gum forest

Open forests of River Red Gum, Swamp Gum and Black Wattle in relatively wet areas with fertile alluvial soils. The ground layer plants include grasses and moisture loving plants such as marsh flowers, water ribbons, Tassel Cord Rush and Bladderwort. Silver Banksia and Cherry Ballart make up the scrub layer.

Areas such as Dairy Creek Valley

Low open shrubland / heathy woodland

This widespread community occurs on the fringes of the ranges where soils are well drained and infertile. Brown Stringybark and Shining Peppermint are the most common eucalypts. The diverse understorey contains heath, wattles, peas, grevilleas, hakeas, sedges and a wealth of orchids.

Areas such as Halls Gap - Dunkeld Road and the Victoria Valley Road



Austral Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*)

Further information

For further information on flora in the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, check out *A Field Guide to Grampians Flora* by Rodger Elliot or *The Grampians in Flower* by I.R. McCann.

Caring for country

- Please take all rubbish with you and leave no trace of your visit.
- Keep wildlife wild – do not feed the native wildlife.
- Campfires are only permitted in provided steel fireplaces.
- Generators, chainsaws and firearms are not permitted.
- Domestic pets are not permitted.

Be prepared and stay safe

In an emergency dial 000 for police, ambulance or fire.

Important things to know

The park has many remote areas, plan wisely before your visit:

- Mobile phone service does not exist in many areas, you may get emergency phone coverage at high elevations.
- Drinking water is not provided – bring plenty of your own.
- Creeks dry up in the warmer months and should not be relied on.
- Drive carefully on roads, wildlife regularly cross without warning.
- Walking tracks, roads and visitor sites may be closed due to fire damage, seasonal storms or maintenance.

Be fire ready

Bushfires can occur during the warmer months. It is your responsibility to check current and forecast weather conditions. The park is located in the

Wimmera and **South West** fire districts. Campfires cannot be lit on days of Total Fire Ban, however gas cookers can be used for preparing food. On catastrophic days the park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected, but do not expect an official warning from park rangers.

For emergency updates and fire information call 1800 226 226, listen to local radio (94.1FM, 89.3FM, 91.7FM or 594AM), download the VicEmergency phone app or visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au.

For park conditions visit www.parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963.