

# Frog-Friendly Native Pond and Bog Plants

## Creeping or low, spreading plants

### Native Arthritis Plant - *Centella asiatica*

- Creeping herb with rounded leaves, common in marshy sheltered places.
- Hardy groundcover useful for underplanting amongst taller plants in damp areas. May withstand some drying out as well as inundation for short periods.
- Suitable for bog.

### Swamp Goodenia - *Goodenia paniculata*

- Spreading tufted groundcover with yellow flowers, common in marshy meadows and wet heaths.
- Prefers moist sunny areas, but will tolerate some shade and is drought tolerant. Good in pots.
- Suitable for bog.
- Attracts butterflies, native bees and small insects which provide food for frogs.

### Native Pennywort - *Hydrocotyle peduncularis*

- Creeping herb with lobed leaves, common in sheltered marshy areas.
- Hardy, vigorous groundcover suitable for shady areas. Won't tolerate pedestrian traffic.
- Suitable for bog.

Not easily confused with the exotic weed 'Kurnell Curse', *Hydrocotyle bonariensis*.

### Water Primrose - *Ludwigia peploides subspecies montevidensis*

- Yellow flowering herb with creeping or floating stems in ponds and slow flowing streams.
- Flowers best in full sun and shallow water, grows as a low, bushy shrub in moist soils.
- Suitable for pond and bog.
- Attracts seed-eating birds.
- Very similar to declared Noxious Weed, *Ludwigia peruviana*, a serious problem around Sydney.

### Knotweed - *Persicaria decipiens*

- Very common, dense groundcover herb, with striking, pink, pendulous flowerheads. Found in marshes and beside creeks.
- Suits moist position in sun or semi-shade. May be drought tolerant.
- Suitable for bog.
- Provides good cover for ground frogs.
- Attracts seed-eating birds such as finches.

### Knotweed - *Persicaria strigosa*

- Common dense groundcover herb, with striking, white, flowerheads. Found in marshes and beside creeks.
- Suits moist or submerged position, in sun or semi-shade.
- Suitable for bog and pond.
- Provides good cover for frogs such as Striped Marsh Frogs and Peron's Tree Frogs.
- Likely to attract seed-eating birds.

## **Sedges, rushes and grass-like, taller plants**

### **Tassel Sedge – *Carex fascicularis***

- Strap-leaved clumping plant with pendant clusters of bright green tassels, found in wetland margins and swampy areas.
- Hardy, attractive sedge 1m x 1m, for sunny position or shade, may be drought tolerant but prefers regular water.
- Suitable for pond and bog.
- Butterfly food plant.

### **Tall Sedge - *Carex appressa***

- Grass-like sedge with spiralling flower-heads, common along creeks and in wet areas.
- Hardy attractive sedge in full sun to full shade, prefers moist soil but is fairly drought tolerant.
- Suitable for pond and bog.
- Provides good shelter for small frogs.
- Attracts butterflies (and is a wombat food plant!)

### **Knobby Club-Rush - *Isolepis nodosa***

- Erect grass-like sedge to 70cm, with distinctive spherical flower heads, common in moist soil near the sea.
- Prefers full sun and moist soils, yet tolerates drought and shade. Grows well in pots. Very hardy.
- Suitable for bog.
- Good for small ground frogs when planted in clumps.
- Attracts native bees.
- Spreads easily by seed in moist places.

### **Mat Rush - *Lomandra longifolia***

- Clumping, grass-like herb to 0.7m, with sharpened leaf tips. Common in many habitats, in sun or shade.
- Hardy plant for exposed and coastal gardens on any soil.
- Suitable for bog.
- Excellent habitat for small frogs.
- Attracts seed and insect-eating birds and butterflies, provides shelter and nesting sites for birds (and another wombat food plant!)

### **Common Reed - *Phragmites australis***

- Tall, erect grass, with handsome, feathery flowerheads forming dense stands in marshy ground in fresh or brackish water. Common throughout Australia.
- Suits sunny or semi-shaded position. Fast spreading, so may require containment in pots.
- Suitable for bog and pond.
- Provides habitat for birds and insects such as butterflies. New shoots are edible.
- May be confused with the exotic weed Giant Reed *Arundo donax*.

### **Water Ribbons - *Triglochin procerum***

- Clumping aquatic herb, with fleshy, strap-like leaves along creeks and in permanently wet areas.
- Attractive, glossy water plant for full or partial shade in permanent water.
- Suitable for ponds.
- Leaves, seeds and tubers are eaten by waterbirds, attracts butterflies and other insects and provides fish habitat. Tubers are edible by humans.

### **Red-Fruited Saw Sedge - *Gahnia sieberiana***

- Tall, arching, sharp-leaved sedge with dark brown feathery flower heads, found in dense thickets on marshy, sandy soils.
- Grows well in moist soils; tolerates waterlogging, full sun or shade. Grows well in pots.
- Suitable for bog.
- Provides excellent shelter sites for small tree frogs.
- Attracts seed-eating birds and butterflies.

### **Woolly Frogmouth - *Philydrum lanuginosum***

- Tufted succulent herb (to 1.5m) with showy, yellow flowers, fairly common in swamps and pond edges.
- Full sun or shade in moist or wet soil in a warm position. May be drought tender. Flowers open over a period of several weeks.
- Suitable for bog and pond.

### **Tassel Rush - *Restio tetraphyllus subspecies meiotachyus***

- Distinctive, bright green, feathery-looking rush found along creeks and peaty wetlands.
- Hardy, tall, decorative plant for full sun to shade in moist soils or shallow water.
- Suitable for bog and shallow pond.
- Used by Jervis Bay Tree Frog.
- Provides seed for birds, and attracts butterflies.

## **Shrubs**

### **Swamp Hibiscus - *Hibiscus diversifolius***

- Shrub (1.5m x 1m) with large yellow flowers and prickly stems growing in low swampy coastal areas.
- Keeps well in a pot in full sun or semi-shade. Prefers wet to waterlogged position, but may be drought tolerant.
- Suitable for bog and pond.
- Provides perches for medium-sized tree frogs.

**Compiled by Danie Ondinea, September 1999.**

For information about building a frog pond and other froggy matters contact The Frog and Tadpole Study (FATS) Group – PO Box 296 Rockdale, NSW, 2216.

**Website** [www.fats.org.au](http://www.fats.org.au)