

# Toronto Fire Station's Model Fire Retardant Native Garden

*Enhancing our urban habitat*



*Doryanthes excelsa* Corrêa.  
Giant Lily, Gynea Lily  
Photo J. Plaza



*Hymenosporum flavum*. Native Frangipani  
Photo T.M. Tame



*Acmena smithii*. Lilly Pilly, Midjuburi  
Photo J. Plaza



*Cordyline stricta*. Narrow-leaved Palm Lily  
Photo T.M. Tame



*Glochidion ferdinandi*. Cheese Tree  
Photo D. Hardin

Our bushland is a beautiful place. It provides habitat for our native flora and fauna and a place of wonder for children and adults alike. This educational garden has been created to demonstrate a healthy native habitat, with minimal local fire hazard.

We enjoy living close to bushland, but need to recognise the threat of bushfire.

By selecting plants with fire retardant characteristics, we can retain our natural heritage while mitigating the danger of fire. Bushland can act as an ember curtain and windbreak within an asset protection zone.

Photos ©The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust Website

## *Fire Retardant Characteristics*

The plants chosen for this site have certain fire retardant characteristics:

- **Less volatile oil**
- **Less tendency to drop large amounts of debris**
- **Smooth bark**
- **Dense, moisture-retaining foliage to provide an ember curtain**

## *Get Involved*



Toronto Area Sustainable  
Neighbourhood Group



Lake Macquarie Landcare  
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## *Suggested Species*

Remember that no plant is fireproof and retention of existing trees is preferred. In addition to the species depicted here, other suggested plants include:

Further reading: Trees in Newcastle, Fire Retardant Plants, TIN Topic # 13.

- *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* – Christmas Bush
- *Crinum pedunculatum* – Swamp Lily
- *Syzygium paniculatum* – Magenta Lilly Pilly
- *Homalanthus populifolius* – Bleeding Heart
- *Ficus rubiginosa* – Port Jackson Fig
- *Eupomatia laurina* – Bolwarra
- *Lomandra ssp* – Mat Rush
- *Dianella caerulea* – Blue Flax Lily

This project is supported by Lake Macquarie City Council through its Environmental Sustainability Grants. We would like to acknowledge the generous assistance and support from Lake Macquarie Landcare, proudly supported by Lake Macquarie City Council, Fire and Rescue NSW, and the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance.

