

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden

Plants to 'Touch'



Lightwood
Acacia implexa

Graceful tree with open crown, rough fissured bark, 15m high x 4-5m wide, fast growing, masses of creamy coloured flowers in summer. A good feature tree.

Great to touch because it has rough and cracked bark



Hedge Wattle
Acacia paradoxa

Dense prickly shrub to 2.5m high X 2m wide, abundant yellow flowers in late Winter. Excellent small bird habitat. Drought tolerant, good hedging plant.

Great to touch because it has prickly stems.



Prickly Moses
Acacia verticillata

Large, dense, prickly shrub to 4m, attracting arching branches support masses of pale yellow flowers in Spring. Fantastic small bird habitat and ideal as a dense screen or hedge

Great to touch because it has prickly leaves



Black She-oak
Allocasuarina littoralis

Small tree to 8m x 5m with sometimes conical form, Bark becomes deeply furrowed in older trees, females have small cones containing many seeds.

Great to touch because it has rough cones



Drooping She-oak
Allocasuarina verticillata

Medium sized tree to 10m high x 5m wide with dense rounded canopy.. Female bears cones, male yellow-brown tassels.

Great to touch because it has rough cones



River Bottlebrush
Callistemon sieberi

Medium shrub 2-3m X 2-3m, open dense weeping shrub with cream to pink flowers in summer and autumn. Bird and butterfly attracting. Very good screening plant.

Great to touch because it has tough foliage



Tall Sedge
Carex appressa

Robust sedge to 1.5m high x 1.5m wide. Bird attracting, good bank stabiliser. Provides food for seed eating birds

Great to touch because it has sharp foliage



Curly Sedge
Carex tasmanica

Rare tufting sedge occurring in the Melbourne area, growing to 40cm x 40cm. Foliage develops attractive curly tips which dry and contrast against other foliage.

Great to touch because it has curly leaf tips

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Inland Noon Flower
Carpobrotus modestus

Robust, succulent groundcover to 10cm high and spreading. Forms very dense mats. Bright pink flowers in spring and early summer. Fruit is edible.

Great to touch because it has succulent leaves



Common Everlasting Daisy
Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Attractive long flowering daisy. Masses of small yellow everlasting daisy type flowers occur October through February, drought tolerant, butterfly attracting.

Great to touch because it has hairy leaves



Clematis aristata

Great to touch because it has furry seed heads



Small Leaf Clematis
Clematis microphylla

Vigorous climber to 5 metres with masses of creamy coloured fragrant flowers in July and feathery fruits on female plants. Very hardy and drought tolerant plants which are adaptable to most soils.

Great to touch because it has furry seed heads



Prickly Currant Bush
Coprosmia quadrifida

Open upright spiny shrub to 4m x 3m wide. Red edible sweet flavoured drupes appear in spring and early summer. Prefers moist soils in a semi shaded position

Great to touch because it has prickly stems



Hakea decurrens

Great to touch because it has prickly leaves



Water Buttons
Cotula coronopifolia

Semi aquatic creeping and spreading perennial herb with yellow button disc like flowers in Spring and Summer.

Copes well in saline conditions and bog/pond habitats. Good frog habitat.

Great to touch because it has waxy foliage



Silky Blue Grass
Dicanthemum sericium

Erect tussockgrass to 80cm high with highly decorative blue- grey foliage. Prefers dry and clay soils in well drained, full sun position. Responds well to summer watering.

Great to touch because it has soft grassy foliage

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden



Tall Spike Rush
Eleocharis sphacelata

Large, robust semi aquatic rush to 3m high and spreading. Excellent for revegetation and large dams, providing waterbird habitat and preventing wave erosion. Copes with inundation to 1 metre.

Great to touch because it has segmented hollow



Blue Devil
Eryngium ovinum

Very attractive thistle type plant, quite prickly with masses of prickly electric blue flower heads in summer. Dies back after flowering and re- shoots in Autumn after rain. Full sun, heavy soils.

Great to touch because it has a very prickly flower



River Red Gum
Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Large spreading tree to 50m high x 35m wide. Suitable for large yards or farms. Prefers moist alluvial soil but adapts to most situations. Drought tolerant. Good habitat for wildlife

Great to touch because it has a very smooth

Long Leaf Box
Eucalyptus goniocalyx

Fast growing tree with rough bark, crooked trunk and large rounded canopy. Drought tolerant. Honey producing cream coloured flowers in Autumn.

Great to touch because it has a very rough



Red Ironbark
Eucalyptus tricarpa

Upright to spreading tree with open crown to 30m high x 20m wide. Requires well drained soil but is drought tolerant. Produces copious amounts of nectar in Spring and is important in honey production.

Great to touch because it has deeply cracked, rough bark.



Knobby Club Rush
Ficinia nodosa
(syn. *Isolepis nodosa*)

Perennial sedge forming dense rounded clumps 1m x 1m wide. Structural plant ideal for landscaping and border plantings. Very hardy, prefers moist soils but tolerates dryness once established..

Great to touch because it has knobby heads on stems.

Gahnia sieberiana

Great to touch because it has sharp leaves



SHEILD PENNYWORT
Hydrocotyle verticillata

Creeping perennial herb to 30cm high and spreading. Requires wet or boggy soil in full sun to semi shade. An attractive border plant for a small pond. Good frog habitat.

Great to touch because it has waxy leaves

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Red Anther Wallaby Grass
Joycea pallida

Tufted perennial grass to 40cm high x 50cm wide. Tolerates poor soils low in nutrients in a semi shaded or full sun position. Dry well drained soils. Tolerates periods of wetness. Butterfly attracting.

Great to touch because it has narrow, dry leaves



Prickly Tea Tree
Leptospermum continentale

Dense shrub to 3m, prickly foliage encourages small birds. Flowers October to March. Tolerates dry soils, full sun to semi shade.

Great to touch because it has narrow, dry leaves



Native Flax
Linum marginale

Perennial herb forming slender clumps to 60cm high. Bright blue flowers in spring and summer. Very adaptable. Cut back hard in Autumn to encourage growth. Self seeds readily.

Great to touch because it has tough, stringy stems



Spiny Headed Mat Rush
Lomandra longifolia subsp. Longifolia
Large tussock forming plant with strap like leaves to 1m x 1m. Cream flower spikes in spring. Very adaptable and reliable in most situations, grows best with some moisture, drought tolerant.

Great to touch because it has strappy leaves



Short-leaf Blue Bush
Maireana brevifolia

Erect, sometimes dense shrub with succulent leaves to 1m x 1m. Small greenish flowers followed by pinkish winged fruit. Ideal for dry well drained soils, salt tolerant.

Great to touch because it has succulent leaves



Tree Violet
Melicytus dentatus
Open shrub to 2m x 2m. Small sweetly scented flowers appear along stems in Spring followed by small purple berries. Prickly stems provide shelter for birds. Adaptable, drought tolerant.

Great to touch because it has prickly stems



Water Milfoil
Myriophyllum crispatum
Submerged aquatic plant growing in water to 1m deep. Excellent habitat plant for tadpoles, invertebrates and small fish. Good oxygenator. Can cope with drying out but soil must be moist.

Great to touch because it has a lacy texture



Short-leaf Blue Bush
Nicotiana suaveolens

Great to touch because it has large, hairy leaves

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden

<p><i>Pandorea pandorana</i></p> <p>Great to touch because it has a waxy seed pods</p>	 <p>Common Tussock Grass <i>Poa labillardieri</i> Large dense tussock grass to 1m x 1m. Fast growing and adaptable to most soils and positions. Can be used in rockeries, besides ponds or among established plants. Butterfly attracting.</p> <p>Great to touch because it has tough stringy leaves</p>
<p>Mutton Wood <i>Rapanea howittiana</i></p> <p>Dense upright or spreading shrub to 5m high X 3m wide, abundant purple berries in summer. Moist well drained soils, full sun to full shade. Slow growing, good substitute for pittosporum spp.</p> <p>Great to touch because it has hard purple berries</p>	 <p>Native Raspberry <i>Rubus parvifolius</i></p> <p>Rambling small shrub or trailing small plant to 1m high x 2m wide. A hardy plant preferring moist but well drained soils. Pink flowers in spring and summer followed by sweet red edible berries.</p> <p>Great to touch because it has a waxy seed pods</p>
<p><i>Rumex brownii</i></p> <p>Great to touch because it has large leaves</p>	<p><i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i></p> <p>Great to touch because it has long smooth stems</p>
 <p>Glandular Pink Bells <i>Tetratheca labillardieri</i></p> <p>Clumping, sometimes spreading low shrub to 60cm x 60cm. Showy fragrant pink flowers with black centres in Winter and Spring. Prefers moist soils in sheltered position likes summer moisture.</p> <p>Great to touch because it has sticky leaves</p>	 <p>Water Ribbons <i>Triglochin procera</i></p> <p>Robust aquatic perennial herb with ribbon like floating leaves to 1m long. Attractive in water gardens can be grown in water up to 1m deep. Produces masses of edible white starchy tubers.</p> <p>Great to touch because it has large bulbous tubers</p>

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden

Villarsia reniformis

Great to touch because it has large waxy leaves



Golden Spray
Viminaria juncea

Open spreading shrub to 4m high X 2m wide, abundant yellow flowers in Spring. Moist to well drained soils, full sun to part shade. Copes with poorly drained sites.

Great to touch because it has fissured bark

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Plants to 'Hear'



Spreading Flax Lilly
Dianella admixta

A clumping lily with deep blue flowers in Spring and early Summer on stems to 1m high and spreading. Very drought tolerant but adaptable to most conditions. Can be planted under trees.

Great to hear because it has rattling seed pods.



Black She-oak
Allocasuarina litoralis

Small tree to 8m x 5m with sometimes conical form, Bark becomes deeply furrowed in older trees, females have small cones containing many seeds.

Great to hear because wind whistles through the branches



Narrow Leaf Bitter Pea
Daviesia leptophylla

Open erect shrub to 1.2m high X 1m wide. Racemes or yellow and red flowers in spring. Butterfly attracting. Prefers dry well drained soils in semi shaded situation.

Great to hear because it has rattling seed pods.



Golden Tip
Goodia lotifolia

Dense to open shrub 3m x 3m. Yellow and red pea flowers appear in profusion in spring and stems remain red. Prefers moist well drained soils in a sunny position. Good screening plant.

Great to hear because it has rattling seed pods.



Western Golden Tip
Goodia medicaginea

Open shrub 1.5 x 1.5m. Yellow and red pea flowers appear in profusion in spring and stems remain red. Prefers well drained soils in a sunny position and is good on clay soils. Centre piece for rockeries.

Great to hear because it has rattling seed pods.

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden

Plants to 'Taste'	
	 <p>Ruby Salt Bush <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i></p> <p><i>Flat-lying plant to 1m wide x 30cm high. Ideal rockery plant or for very dry exposed sites. Requires good drainage and is drought tolerant. Edible red berries in late summer.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible fruit.</p>
 <p>Narrowleaf Bitter Pea <i>Daviesia leptophylla</i></p> <p><i>Medium sized open erect shrub with yellow and red flowers in spring. Butterfly attracting. Prefers dry well drained soils in semi shaded situation..</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible fruit.</p>	 <p>Black Wattle <i>Acacia mearnsii</i></p> <p><i>Fast growing tree up to 15m x 4m wide. Very adaptable tolerating most soil types. Prefers open position in full sun. Great habitat tree. Provides food for many animals. Good shade tree.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has sap.</p>
 <p>Matted Flax Lilly <i>Dianella amoena</i></p> <p><i>Tufted mat forming perennial lily to 45cm high and 1m wide. Small loose panicles of small sweetly scented pale to deep violet flowers in summer. Well drained soils in full sun. rockeries.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible fruit.</p>	 <p>Flax Lilly <i>Dianella brevicaulis</i></p> <p><i>Small dense tufting perennial lily with clusters of small blue flowers on open stems amongst the foliage. Flowers in spring and summer followed by edible blue berries. Butterfly attracting.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible fruit.</p>
 <p>Nodding Salt Bush <i>Einadia nutans</i></p> <p><i>Perennial groundcover to 40cm high unless climbing to 1m. Numerous small red edible berries appear in spring and summer. Prefers full sun in a dry well drained soil.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible fruit.</p>	<p>Berry Saltbush <i>Einadia hastata</i></p> <p><i>Dense perennial shrub 40cm high and 1 metre wide. Small red berries appear in summer. Very drought/salt tolerant preferring full sun in a dry well drained soil.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible fruit.</p>

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden



Honey Pots
Acrotriche serrulata

Slow growing dense, ground covering shrub growing 10cm high and up to 1m wide. Flowers are loaded with sweet caramel flavoured nectar in winter and spring. Prefers well drained soils.

Great to taste because it has sweet flavours



Black She-oak
Allocasuarina littoralis

Small tree to 8m x 5m with sometimes conical form, Bark becomes deeply furrowed in older trees, females have small cones

Great to taste because chewing the leaves can quench your thirst *containing many seeds.*



Sea Celery
Apium prostratum

Trailing perennial herb to 40cm high spreading. Tiny cream flowers in spring. Prefers moist to boggy soils. May be used as a celery substitute.

Great to taste because it has edible leaves



Berry Salt Bush
Atriplex semibaccata

Prostrate perennial shrub, 30cm high x spreading. Drought tolerant, grows well in hot dry position. Adaptable to most soil types. Small red berries in Summer are edible and attract skinks and birds.

Great to taste because it has edible berries



Common Apple Berry
Billardiera scandens

Adaptable light climber, bushier if grown in an open aspect. Greenish yellow tubular flowers throughout the year followed by edible berries. Drought resistant prefers well drained soil.

Great to taste because it has edible fruit

Sea Club Rush
Bolboschoenus caldwellii

Erect, rhizomatous spreading, semi aquatic rush to 1m high at edge of water. Foliage dies down in winter. Tuberous roots are edible. Suitable for fresh or brackish water on clay or sandy soils.

Great to taste because it has edible tuber

Marsh Club-Rush
Bolboschoenus medianus

Erect, rhizomatous spreading, semi aquatic rush to 2m high at edge of water. Foliage dies down in winter. Tuberous roots are edible. Suitable for fresh or brackish water on clay or sandy soils.

Great to taste because it has edible tuber



Inland Moon Flower
Carpobrotus modestus

Robust, succulent groundcover to 10cm high and spreading. Forms very dense mats. Bright pink flowers in spring and early summer. Fruit is edible. Dry soils, tolerating hot exposed position.

Great to taste because it has edible fruits

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden

 <p>PRICKLY CURRANT BUSH <i>Coprosma quadrifida</i></p> <p><i>Open upright spiny shrub to 4m x 3m wide. Reddish orange edible sweet flavoured drupes appear in spring and early summer. Prefers moist soils in a semi shaded position.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible sweet fruit</p>	 <p>SPREADING FLAX LILY <i>Dianella admixta</i></p> <p><i>A clumping lily with deep blue flowers in Spring and early Summer on stems to 1m high and spreading, very drought tolerant, adaptable to most conditions, can be planted under trees.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has Edible Fruit</p>
<p>Pale Flax Lily <i>Dianella laevis</i></p> <p><i>Large perennial lily forming a tight tussock to 1mx 1m. Prefers moist, well drained soils in semi shade to full sun. Massed purple and yellow flowers are followed by edible blue berries</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible fruit</p>	 <p>River Mint <i>Mentha Australis</i></p> <p><i>50cm H x 1mW, ideal for boggy area, tolerates drying out once established. Fragrant medicinal herb, pink flowers, edges of ponds and around taps.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it makes a soothing tea</p>
 <p>Native Raspberry <i>Rubus parvifolius</i></p> <p><i>Rambling small shrub or trailing small plant to 1m high x 2m wide. A hardy plant preferring moist but well drained soils. Pink flowers in spring and summer followed by sweet red edible berries</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible berries</p>	 <p>Mountain Pepper <i>Tasmania lanceolata</i></p> <p><i>Erect shrub or small tree to 5m x3m. Leaves and fruits are aromatic are hot tasting and used in cooking. Needs moist soils, and prefers a cool shady position</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has hot peppery leaves</p>
 <p>Water Ribbons <i>Triglochin procera</i></p> <p><i>Robust aquatic perennial herb with ribbon like floating leaves to 1m long. Attractive in water gardens can be grown in water up to 1m deep. Produces masses of edible white starchy tubers.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because it has edible tubers</p>	 <p>Large Kangaroo Apple <i>Solanum aviculare</i></p> <p><i>Extremely fast growing screening shrub to 3mx3m, attractive purple flowers to 5cm followed by orange/red berries. Bird attracting, very adaptable.</i></p> <p>Great to taste because of edible orange berries</p>

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden



Kangaroo Apple
Solanum Laciniatum

Extremely fast growing screening shrub to 3mx3m, attractive purple flowers to 5cm followed by orange berries. Bird attracting, very adaptable.

Great to taste because of edible orange berries

Plants to 'Smell'



Acacia dealbata
SILVER WATTLE

Fast growing tree to 10 m high x 15 m wide. Pale yellow perfumed flowers in Winter, prefers moist sheltered position. Gliders eat the sap.

Great to smell because of scented flowers



Sweet Hounds Tongue
Cynoglossum suaveolens

Small erect to spreading perennial herb with tiny, highly fragrant white flowers in summer. Ideal for rockeries and prefers well drained heavy soils in open position.

Great to smell because it has highly fragrant flowers



Native Hemp Bush
Gynatrix pulchella

Open woody shrub developing a rounded crown from a single trunk to 4m x 3m wide. Prefers well drained but moist soil in a semi shaded to full sun position. Scented cream flowers in Spring.

Great to smell because of it's perfumed flowers



Rock Correa
Correa glabra

Fast growing and dense medium sized shrub with nectar rich tubular flowers from February to September. Bird attracting and, adaptable to most soils.

Great to smell because it has citrus scented foliage



Sea Celery
Apium prostratum

Trailing perennial herb to 40cm high spreading. Tiny cream flowers in spring. Prefers moist to boggy soils. May be used as a celery substitute.

Great to smell because of parsley scented foliage

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden



Chocolate Lily
Arthropodium strictum

Tufted Lily with branched spike of purple, chocolate scented flowers Spring and Summer. Prefers semi shade with some moisture.

Great to smell because of chocolate scented flowers



Bulbine Lily
Bulbine bulbosa

Tufted perennial, dyes back to edible tubers in Summer, re sprouts in Autumn, Drought tolerant, prefers some moisture, full sun

Great to smell because of sweet scented flowers



Milky Beauty Heads
Calocephalus lacteus

Prostrate perennial with aromatic silver grey leaves to 1.5m wide. Cream to white flowers in summer. Prefers moist soils in sun or semi.

Great to smell because of its scented foliage



Common Cassinia
Cassinia aculeata

Open shrub to 2m high, aromatic leaves, flower clusters in Summer, well drained soils, full sun to semi shade, fast growing screening plant.

Great to smell because of curry scented foliage



Chinese Cassinia
Cassinia arcuata

Tight shrub to 2m high, aromatic leaves, hanging flower clusters in Summer, well drained soils, full sun to semi shade, fast growing colonising plant.

Great to smell because of curry scented foliage



Shiny Cassinia
Cassinia longifolia

Open spreading shrub to 2m high X 2m wide, abundant white umbels in Spring and Summer. Well drained soils, full sun to part shade. Colonising species, easily established.

Great to smell because of curry scented foliage



Common Sneezeweed
Centipeda Cunninghamii

Small fast growing perennial herb to 40cm high x 20cm wide. Prefers moist soils tolerating shallow inundation. A medicinal plant used for colds by aborigines.

Great to smell because of scented foliage



Sweet Hound's Tongue
Cynoglossum suaveolens

Small erect to spreading perennial herb 40cm x 40cm. Tiny white flowers in summer which are highly fragrant. Ideal for rockeries. Prefers well drained heavy soil in open position.

Great to smell because of strongly scented flowers

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden



**Burgan
Kunzea
Leptospermoides**

Dense shrub with aromatic leaves. Sometimes developing weeping habit to 2m x 2m. Profuse white flowers in summer. Butterfly attracting. Prefers open position in moist, well drained soil.

Great to smell because it has tea-tree scented foliage



**Prickly Tea-Tree
Leptospermum
continentale**

Dense shrub to 3m, prickly foliage encourages small birds. Flowers October to March. Tolerates dry soils, full sun to semi shade.

Great to smell because it has tea-tree scented foliage



**Woolly Tea-Tree
Leptospermum
langierum**

Dense shrub to 2.5m X 2.5m, Weeping habit and silvery new growth. Flowers October to March. Prefers some moisture in soil, full sun to semi shade.

Great to smell because it has tea-tree scented foliage

**Heath Tea-Tree
Leptospermum
myrsinoides**

Dense shrub to 2m x 2m. Flowers October to March. Tolerates dry soils, full sun to semi shade. Prefers a well drained sheltered position. Good low screen.

Great to smell because it has tea-tree scented foliage



**River Tea-Tree
Leptospermum
obovatum**

Dense erect shrub to 3m x 2m, aromatic leaves. A dense screen suited to moist soils, copes with drying out in summer. Creamy white flowers in summer.

Great to smell because it has tea-tree scented foliage

**Leptospermum
scoparium**

Great to smell because it has tea-tree scented foliage

Lycopus australia

Great to smell because it has a Herbaceous scented foliage



**Swamp Paperback
Melaleuca ericifolia**

Dense riparian shrub to 8m, cream flowers Oct-Nov. Moist soils tolerates drying once established, semi shade to full sun, bird attracting.

Great to smell because it has tea-tree scented foliage

Great Indigenous Plants for Creating a Sensory Garden



River Mint
Mentha Australis

50cm H x 1mW, ideal for boggy area, tolerates drying out once established. Fragrant medicinal herb, pink flowers, edges of ponds and around taps.

Great to smell because of mint scented foliage



Dusty Daisy Bush
Olearia phlogopappa

Fast growing open to dense shrub 2m x 2m, masses of white, pink, blue or mauve flower heads in Spring. Prefers well drained soils, full sun to part shade.

Great to smell because it has strongly scented flowers



Grey Everlasting
Ozothamnus obcordatus

Slender erect shrub to 1m x 1m. Numerous dense clusters of small yellow tubular flowers in summer. Butterfly attracting preferring drier well drained soils.

Great to smell because it has curry scented flowers



Austral Stokes Bill
Pelargonium australe

Very attractive foliage changing colours with the seasons, adds colour to a winter garden. Hardy suited to most soils and positions. Pink flowers

Great to smell because it has Geranium scented foliage



Victorian Christmas Bush
Prostanthera lasianthos

Large upright shrub to 8m. Flowers November to January, spectacular in flower. Bird attracting, suited to moist shady site.

Great to smell because of mint scented foliage



Balm Mint Bush
Prostanthera mellisifolia

Fast growing, dense rounded shrub to 2m x 2m. Mauve to pink flowers cover the shrub in spring. Excellent for a moist sheltered position.

Great to smell because of mint scented foliage



Mountain Pepper
Tasmania lanceolata

Erect shrub or small tree to 5m x 3m. Leaves and fruits are aromatic are hot tasting and used in cooking. Needs moist soils, and prefers a cool shady position

Great to taste because it has hot peppery leaves



Forest Germander
Teucrium corymbosum

Erect perennial herb to 1 metre high x 60cm wide. Attractive white flowers in Summer. Requires moist, well drained soils. Regular pruning will maintain a tidy shape. Rare in Melbourne area.

Great to smell because it has scented foliage