

KURRAJONG HEIGHTS PLANT RESEARCH SEP 2026											
Please send comments, updates and corrections to kh.rfs.community@gmail.com											
Category	Common Name	Botanical Name	E/TN/A N	Growth Form	Flammability Rating	Fire Required to Reproduce?	Approx. Fire Interval Needed	Fire Resistance / Response Type	Notes	Photo Search	
Canopy Tree	Sydney Red Gum	Angophora costata	AN	Tree (15-25m)	Moderate (oily foliage)	No / Sensitive	N/A - not required	Resprouter (epicormic)	Smooth trunk is low-flammability, but leaves are oil-rich and burn readily once alight.	View photos	
Canopy Tree	Kurrajong	Brachychiton populneum	AN	Tree (10-20m)	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (thick water-storing trunk/base)	Notably fire-hardy tree; thick bark and water-storing trunk make it a genuinely useful low-flammability canopy tree - a fitting namesake species for this area.	View photos	
Canopy Tree	Red Bloodwood	Corymbia gummifera	AN	Tree (10-20m)	Moderate-High	No / Sensitive	N/A - not required	Resprouter (epicormic)	Rough, tessellated bark holds embers and can support bark fire spread; recovers reliably.	View photos	
Canopy Tree	Sydney Peppermint	Eucalyptus piperita	AN	Tree (10-20m)	Moderate	No / Sensitive	N/A - not required	Resprouter (epicormic)	Rough basal bark can carry fire up trunk; canopy recovers via epicormic shoots within a season.	View photos	
Canopy Tree	Grey Gum	Eucalyptus punctata	AN	Tree (15-25m)	Low-Moderate	No / Sensitive	N/A - not required	Resprouter (epicormic)	Smooth decortivating bark; relatively low bark-fire risk.	View photos	
Canopy Tree	Scribbly Gum	Eucalyptus sclerophylla	AN	Tree (10-20m)	Low-Moderate	No / Sensitive	N/A - not required	Resprouter (epicormic)	Smooth bark sheds low fuel loads; reliably resprouts even after intense crown scorch.	View photos	
Canopy Tree	White Cedar	Melia azedarach	AN	Deciduous tree (10-20m)	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base/root suckers)	Deciduous habit reduces standing dry fuel for part of the year.	View photos	
Canopy Tree	Turpentine	Syncarpia glomulifera	AN	Tree (20-40m)	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (epicormic) - notably fire-resistant	Thick, fibrous, moisture-holding bark makes this one of the more fire-resistant tall trees in the region.	View photos	
Understorey Tree	Black She-oak	Allocasuarina littoralis	AN	Small tree/large shrub	Moderate	Facultative (benefits)	~15-20 yrs for population turnover	Resprouter (lignotuber) + serotinous seed release	Fine needle-like foliage burns readily; woody cones release seed after heat; too-frequent fire depletes lignotuber reserves.	View photos	
Understorey/Iconic	Grass Tree (spp.)	Xanthorrhoea media / X. arborea	AN	Grass-like perennial	High (dead skirt) / trunk itself low	Facultative (flowering strongly stimulated)	Tolerates 3-15+ yrs; flowering cued by any fire	Resprouter (protected apical bud)	Dead leaf 'skirt' torches spectacularly and carries flame, but the growing point is insulated and survives almost all fires; mass-flowers 4-12 weeks post-fire.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Silver Banksia	Banksia marginata	AN	Shrub-small tree	Moderate	Obligate (Yes) - variable by population	~10-15 yrs	Variable: some populations resprout, most are killed by fire (obligate seeders)	Locally can be eliminated by fire intervals shorter than ~10 years; check local population type before relying on regrowth.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Old Man Banksia	Banksia serrata	AN	Small-medium tree	Low-Moderate	Facultative / Obligate (population-dependent)	~15-20 yrs between fires for full recovery	Resprouter (lignotuber) + serotinous canopy seed bank	Thick corky bark is genuinely fire-resistant; woody cones need fire/heat to open; too-frequent fire kills seedlings before they set seed.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Hairpin Banksia	Banksia spinulosa	AN	Shrub (1-3m)	Moderate	Obligate (Yes)	~8-10 yrs minimum	Resprouter (lignotuber) + serotinous	Matures and sets viable seed faster than tree Banksias; still needs several fire-free years to build seed bank.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Spider Flowers / Grevilleas (spp.)	Grevillea sericea, G. buxifolia, G. speciosa etc.	AN	Shrub (0.5-2m)	Moderate	Obligate (Yes)	~10-15 yrs minimum	Obligate seeder (killed by fire)	Entire local population is fire-killed and must regenerate from a soil/canopy seed bank; frequent fire (<8 yrs) can locally extinguish populations.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Needlebush / Hakeas (spp.)	Hakea sericea, H. teretifolia, H.	AN	Shrub (1-4m)	Moderate-High (fine foliage)	Obligate (Yes)	~7-10 yrs minimum	Obligate seeder (killed by fire) - serotinous woody fruit	Woody seed capsules are serotinous and only release seed after fire/heat; parent plant does not survive.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Drumsticks	Isopogon anemonifolius	AN	Shrub (0.5-1.5m)	Low-Moderate	Facultative	~8-12 yrs	Resprouter (lignotuber)	Common sandstone understorey shrub; recovers reliably from base after fire.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Mountain Devil	Lambertia formosa	AN	Shrub (1-2m)	Moderate	Facultative	~8-12 yrs	Resprouter (lignotuber) + serotinous fruit	Woody fruits store seed and release after fire; plant itself usually survives via lignotuber.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Crinkle Bush	Lomatia silaifolia	AN	Shrub (0.5-1.5m)	Moderate	Facultative	~8-12 yrs	Resprouter (lignotuber/rhizome)	Reliable rhizomatous resprouter typical of Proteaceae understorey.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Geebung (spp.)	Persoonia linearis, P. levis, P. lanceolata	AN	Shrub-small tree	Low-Moderate	Facultative, very slow	Needs 10-15+ fire-free years to reach seeding maturity	Fire-sensitive (slow-maturing, avoid frequent fire)	Long juvenile period before fruiting; frequent fire is one of the biggest threats to Persoonia populations, including threatened species like P. nutans.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Soft Geebung	Persoonia mollis	AN	Shrub	Low-Moderate	Facultative, very slow	Needs 10-15+ fire-free years to reach seeding maturity	Fire-sensitive (slow-maturing)	Same slow-maturing pattern as other local Persoonia species.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Waratah	Telopea speciosissima	AN	Shrub (1-3m)	Low-Moderate	No (benefits but not required)	Flowers well with ~7-15 yr intervals	Resprouter (lignotuber)	Reliable, vigorous lignotuber resprouter; fire can trigger a flush of flowering but isn't necessary for survival.	View photos	
Proteaceae Shrub	Woody Pear	Xylomelum pyriforme	AN	Shrub-small tree	Low-Moderate	Facultative	~10-15 yrs	Resprouter (lignotuber) + serotinous fruit	Large woody pear-shaped fruits are serotinous; plant typically resprouts after fire.	View photos	
Pea & Wattle Shrub (Fabaceae)	White Sallow Wattle	Acacia floribunda	AN	Small tree/tall shrub (3-8m)	Moderate	Facultative (soil seed bank, heat/smoke-cued)	Not on a strict cycle; opportunistic post-disturbance germination	Weak resprouter; relies mainly on soil seed bank	Fast-growing, relatively short-lived coloniser; fine phyllodes carry fire readily.	View photos	
Pea & Wattle Shrub (Fabaceae)	Sydney Green Wattle	Acacia parramattensis	AN	Tree (to 15m)	Moderate	Facultative (hard seed, heat/smoke-cued mass recruitment)	Benefits from periodic disturbance; can dominate 10-20 yrs post-fire then decline	Does not reliably resprout; regenerates from long-lived soil seed bank	Common early-coloniser after fire on sandstone margins; can become locally dominant after hot fires.	View photos	
Pea & Wattle Shrub (Fabaceae)	Wattles (spp.)	Acacia oxycedrus, A. terminalis, A. suaveolens	AN	Shrub (1-4m)	Moderate-High	Obligate (Yes)	~10-15 yrs optimal (many are short-lived, 10-20 yr lifespan)	Obligate seeder - hard, long-lived soil seed bank, heat/smoke cued	Individual plants are usually killed but leave a persistent soil seed bank; too-frequent fire can still exhaust the bank over successive events.	View photos	
Pea & Wattle Shrub (Fabaceae)	Egg-and-bacon peas	Dillwynia spp., Pultenaea spp.	AN	Small shrub (0.3-1.5m)	Moderate-High	Obligate (Yes)	~6-10 yrs	Obligate seeder - hard, soil-stored seed cued by heat/smoke	Classic 'hard-seeded' fire ecology: seed coat is broken by heat, germination triggered by smoke chemicals.	View photos	
Pea & Wattle Shrub (Fabaceae)	Golden Glory Pea	Gompholobium latifolium	AN	Shrub	Moderate	Obligate (Yes)	~6-10 yrs	Obligate seeder - hard, soil-stored seed	Same hard-seeded fire ecology as other local pea shrubs.	View photos	
Pea & Wattle Shrub (Fabaceae)	Australian Indigo	Indigofera australis	AN	Shrub (1-2m)	Low-Moderate	Facultative	Germination enhanced by fire but not required	Resprouter (base) + soil seed bank	Regenerates both by resprouting and from a hard-seeded soil bank.	View photos	
Pea & Wattle Shrub (Fabaceae)	Heart-leaved Shaggy Pea	Oxylobium cordifolium	AN	Shrub	Moderate	Obligate (Yes)	~6-10 yrs	Obligate seeder - hard seed	Genus-level pattern applied; verify exact species/current name locally (taxonomy in this group has shifted, e.g. to Podolobium).	View photos	
Heath Shrub	Ground-berry	Acrotriche sp.	AN	Small shrub (<1m)	Moderate	Facultative	~5-10 yrs typical for heath	Resprouter (base)	Small wiry heath shrub typical of sandstone understorey.	View photos	
Heath Shrub	Twiggy Ground-	Acrotriche divaricata	AN	Small shrub (<1m)	Moderate	Facultative	~5-10 yrs typical for heath	Resprouter (base)	Small wiry heath shrub typical of sandstone understorey.	View photos	
Heath Shrub	Heath Myrtle	Baeckea imbricata	AN	Small shrub	Moderate-High	Facultative	~5-10 yrs	Resprouter (base), typical of most Baeckea	Fine, resinous Myrtaceae foliage typical of heath shrubs; burns readily when dry.	View photos	
Heath Shrub	Coral / Wallum Heath	Epacris pulchella, E. coriacea	AN	Small shrub (<1m)	Moderate-High (fine dry foliage)	Obligate (Yes), short-lived	~4-8 yrs; sensitive to <4 yr intervals	Obligate seeder (killed by fire), short juvenile period	Fast to mature and seed, but also fast to be lost if fire returns before seed set (<3-4 yrs).	View photos	
Heath Shrub	Port Jackson Heath	Epacris purpurescens	AN	Small shrub (<1m)	Moderate-High	Obligate (Yes), short-lived	~4-8 yrs	Obligate seeder, short juvenile period	Locally significant in parts of its range; sensitive to fire intervals shorter than ~4 years.	View photos	
Heath Shrub	Beard-heath	Leucopogon affinis	AN	Small shrub (<1m)	Moderate	Facultative	~5-10 yrs	Resprouter (base)	Mixed strategy genus; most local species resprout from a basal rootstock.	View photos	
Heath Shrub	Beard-heaths	Leucopogon spp.	AN	Small shrub (<1m)	Moderate	Facultative	~5-10 yrs	Resprouter (base) generally	Mixed strategy genus; most local species resprout from a basal rootstock.	View photos	

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Heath Shrub	Slender Rice Flower	Pimelea linifolia	AN	Small shrub (<1m)	Low-Moderate	Facultative, short-lived	~5-8 yrs	Fire-sensitive, resprouts weakly	Short-lived shrub; relies more on seed regeneration than resprouting.	View photos
Heath Shrub	Prickly Beard Heath	Styphelia sieberi	AN	Small shrub	Moderate	Facultative	~5-10 yrs	Resprouter (base)	Recently reclassified from Leucopogon to Styphelia in taxonomic revisions - same plant may appear under either name in older references.	View photos
Heath Shrub	Black-eyed Susan	Tetratheca thymifolia	AN	Small shrub	Moderate	Facultative	~5-10 yrs (genus-level estimate)	Resprouter (base), typical of the genus	Limited species-specific fire data found; treat this rating as a genus-level estimate pending local confirmation.	View photos
Understorey Shrub	Coffee Bush	Breynia oblongifolia	AN	Shrub (1-2m)	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base)	Soft-leaved understorey shrub of forest margins.	View photos
Understorey Shrub	Narrow-leaved	Cordyline stricta	AN	Clumping shrub (2-4m)	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base) - vigorous	Reliable resprouter, useful structural buffer plant.	View photos
Understorey Shrub	Hop Goodenia	Goodenia ovata	AN	Shrub (0.5-2m)	Low-Moderate	No (benefits mildly)	Not fire-dependent; short-lived (~10 yrs) regardless	Resprouter (base)	Fast-growing coloniser after disturbance including fire; not fire-dependent.	View photos
Understorey Shrub	Snowy Daisy	Olearia lirata	AN	Shrub	Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base)	Soft-leaved daisy shrub of forest margins.	View photos
Understorey Shrub	Rice Flower / Pill Flower	Ozothamnus diosmifolius	AN	Shrub	Moderate-High	Facultative, short-lived coloniser	Not on a strict cycle	Reseeds prolifically after disturbance; weak resprout	Aromatic, resin-rich foliage - despite attractive flowers, keep clear of structures.	View photos
Understorey Shrub	Narrow-leaf	Platysace linearifolia	AN	Shrub	Moderate	Facultative	~5-10 yrs (genus-level)	Resprouter (tuberous rootstock)	Fine foliage; limited species-specific fire data available.	View photos
Understorey Shrub	Rough-fruit Pittosporum	Pittosporum revolutum	AN	Shrub (1-3m)	Low	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive, resprouts moderately	Softer, glossier foliage than typical heath shrubs; reasonable low-flammability buffer choice.	View photos
Understorey Shrub	Mint Bush	Prostanthera howelliae	AN	Shrub	Moderate-High	Facultative	~5-10 yrs (genus-level estimate)	Resprouter (base), typical of the genus	Aromatic, oil-bearing foliage typical of Prostanthera - keep away from structures. Worth checking this species' specific conservation status/local significance with a bushcare group, as some Prostanthera in the Blue Mountains are locally restricted.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Cut-leaf Daisy	Brachyscome sp.	AN	Groundcover herb	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Short-lived, reseeds/resprouts from base	Soft daisy groundcover; good low border/buffer plant.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Golden Everlasting	Bracteantha bracteata (Xerochrysum)	AN	Perennial herb/wildflower	Moderate (dry papery bracts when cured)	Facultative (short-lived coloniser)	Opportunistic, not on a strict cycle	Short-lived, regenerates from seed	Classic post-disturbance wildflower; dries to a moderately flammable state late season.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Yellow Burr-daisy	Calotis lappulacea	AN	Groundcover herb	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts/reseeds readily	Small daisy groundcover, disturbance-tolerant.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Pigface	Carpobrotus sp.	AN	Succulent groundcover	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts readily from stem fragments/rhizome	Genuinely excellent low-flammability groundcover; succulent leaves resist ignition - useful right against structures.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Tall Everlasting	Coronidium elata	AN	Perennial herb/wildflower	Moderate	Facultative (short-lived coloniser)	Opportunistic	Short-lived, regenerates from seed	Similar post-disturbance pattern to Bracteantha/Xerochrysum.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Purple Dampiera	Dampiera purpurea	AN	Groundcover	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (rhizome)	Reliable low groundcover; good near-house buffer plant.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Flax Lilies	Dianella caerulea, D. longifolia	AN	Strappy groundcover	Low-Moderate (dry leaf tips)	No (benefits from occasional fire to remove thatch)	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (rhizome/base) - highly fire-tolerant	Regrows very quickly after fire from underground rhizomes; dead leaf litter builds up if never burnt or maintained. Also submitted separately as 'Flax Lily / Daniella sp.' - merged here as the same genus.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Gymea Lily	Doryanthes excelsa	AN	Large rosette perennial	Low-Moderate	No (flowering often enhanced)	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base) - extremely fire-tolerant	Thick fleshy leaf bases protect the growing point; iconic post-fire flowering spectacle in this region.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Emu Bush	Eremophila debilis	AN	Prostrate groundcover shrub	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base)	Low, spreading groundcover with fleshy leaves; not naturally part of this sandstone gully flora but a commonly planted hardy native groundcover with low fire risk.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Wiry Panic	Entolasia stricta	AN	Native grass	Moderate-High when cured	No, but fire removes dead thatch	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base) - vigorous	Like most native grasses, low flammability while green/growing but cures to a high-flammability fine fuel in dry season - keep slashed/green near structures.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Rough Guinea Flower	Hibbertia aspera	AN	Groundcover	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base)	Prostrate/scrambling habit; grouped with other Hibbertia as a low-flammability groundcover.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Guinea Flowers	Hibbertia dentata, H. saligna	AN	Groundcover/climber	Low	No (benefits mildly)	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base/rhizome)	Reliable low groundcover resprouter; useful as a low-flammability buffer plant close to structures.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Kangaroo Paw	Anigozanthos sp.	Aus Native (non-local)	Strappy clumping perennial	Moderate (dry flower stems/leaf litter accumulate)	No	Not fire-dependent in this context	Resprouts from rhizome, but not part of local fire ecology	Native to Western Australia, not indigenous to Hawkesbury sandstone country - a popular native garden plant rather than a local bushland species. Remove old flower spikes and dead leaf litter regularly.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Twisted Mat-rush	Lomandra obliqua	AN	Strappy groundcover	Moderate (dry outer leaves)	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base) - highly fire-tolerant	Same fire response pattern as L. longifolia.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	Lomandra longifolia	AN	Strappy groundcover/tussock	Moderate (dry outer leaves)	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base) - extremely fire-tolerant	One of the most reliable post-fire resprouters in Sydney sandstone bushland; still benefits from removal of dead leaf litter to reduce flame height. Also submitted separately under the names 'Shara' and 'Tropic Cascade' (likely cultivar names) - merged here as the same species; worth confirming with whoever submitted those names in case a different plant was intended.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Creeping Boobialla	Myoporum sp.	AN	Prostrate groundcover shrub	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base)	Fast-spreading prostrate native groundcover with moist, glossy leaves - good low-flammability choice near paths and edges.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Native Iris	Patersonia spp.	AN	Strappy groundcover	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (rhizome/tuber)	Small, tidy groundcover; low fuel accumulation if maintained.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Cockspur Flower	Plectranthus parviflorus	AN	Groundcover herb	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive but reseeds readily, short-lived	Soft, moist herb.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Pomax	Pomax umbellata	AN	Groundcover herb	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base)	Small, unobtrusive groundcover.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Small Poranthera	Poranthera	AN	Groundcover herb	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Short-lived, reseeds	Small, unobtrusive groundcover.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Whiteroot	Pratia purpurascens	AN	Prostrate groundcover	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (rhizome)	Soft, low, moist groundcover well suited to garden buffer zones.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Saltbush	Rhagodia spinescens / R. hastata	AN	Sprawling shrub/groundcover	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base)	Fleshy-leaved saltbush relative; useful semi-succulent buffer plant, though it can build a woody framework over time that benefits from occasional pruning to keep flammability low. Species given as 'spinescens or hirstata' - listed as spinescens/hastata pending confirmation of the second species.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Fan Flower	Scaevola sp.	AN	Trailing groundcover	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base)	Soft trailing groundcover with moist foliage.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Trigger Plant	Stylidium sp.	AN	Groundcover herb	Low	Facultative in some	Not well documented locally	Resprouts/reseeds	Genus-level pattern; not previously assessed for fire response.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Trigger Plant	Stylidium productum	AN	Groundcover herb	Low	Facultative in some	Not well documented locally	Resprouts/reseeds	Genus-level pattern; not previously assessed for fire response.	View photos

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Groundcover/Grass	Australian Speedwell	Veronica plebeia	AN	Groundcover herb	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (rhizome)	Soft, moist groundcover.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Native Violet	Viola hederacea	AN	Groundcover herb	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (rhizome/stolons)	Soft, moist groundcover - a genuinely good low-flammability choice close to the house.	View photos
Groundcover/Grass	Woolly Xanthosia	Xanthosia pilosa	AN	Groundcover herb	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouter (base)	Small aromatic groundcover herb.	View photos
Fern	Common Maidenhair Fern	Adiantum aethiopicum	AN	Groundcover fern	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive top growth, resprouts from rhizome in sheltered sites	Soft, moist fronds; naturally confined to damp, sheltered gully positions that rarely carry intense fire.	View photos
Fern	Rough Maidenhair Fern	Adiantum hispidulum	AN	Groundcover fern	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive top growth, resprouts from rhizome in sheltered sites	Soft, moist fronds; naturally confined to damp, sheltered gully positions.	View photos
Fern	Hard Water Fern	Blechnum wattsii	AN	Groundcover fern	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from rhizome/crown in sheltered sites	Confined to moist gully/creekline positions; naturally low fire exposure.	View photos
Fern	Rainbow Fern / False Bracken	Calochlaena dubia	AN	Groundcover fern	Moderate	Facultative	Tolerates fire, regrows from rhizome	Resprouter (rhizome), often increases after fire	Unlike most ferns on this list, forms dense stands on drier slopes and can cure out, adding fine fuel - worth monitoring near structures.	View photos
Fern	Soft Tree Fern	Dicksonia antarctica	AN	Tree fern (1-5m trunk)	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Fibrous trunk can insulate growing point in low-intensity fire; confined to moist gully refuges	Naturally restricted to damp, fire-sheltered gullies; not a species to rely on in exposed positions.	View photos
Fern	Prickly Rasp Fern	Doodia aspera	AN	Groundcover fern	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from rhizome in sheltered sites	Confined to moist, sheltered positions.	View photos
Fern	Gristle Fern	Oceaniopteris cartilaginea (syn. Blechnum	AN	Groundcover fern	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from rhizome in sheltered sites	Confined to moist, sheltered positions.	View photos
Orchid	Blunt Greenhood Orchid	Pterostylis curta	AN	Terrestrial tuberous orchid	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Fire-tolerant by default (dormant underground tuber over summer/fire season)	Underground during the high-risk fire season; foliage/flower emerge in cooler, wetter months.	View photos
Orchid	Autumn Greenhood Orchid	Pterostylis subulata	AN	Terrestrial tuberous orchid	Low	No	Not fire-dependent	Fire-tolerant by default (dormant underground tuber over summer/fire season)	Underground during the high-risk fire season.	View photos
Vine/Climber	Common Apple Berry	Billardiera mutabilis (syn. B. scandens)	AN	Twining vine	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from rootstock	Soft twining vine; can act as ladder fuel if allowed to climb into shrub/tree canopy.	View photos
Vine/Climber	Kangaroo Vine	Cissus antarctica	AN	Woody vine	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from rootstock	Vigorous rainforest-margin vine; can form ladder fuel into tree canopies if unmanaged.	View photos
Vine/Climber	Native Grape	Cissus hypoglauca	AN	Woody vine	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from rootstock	Same ladder-fuel consideration as C. antarctica.	View photos
Vine/Climber	Old Man's Beard	Clematis aristata	AN	Climbing vine	Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from rootstock	Dry, fluffy seed heads ('old man's beard') are notably flammable late in the season; keep clear of structures.	View photos
Vine/Climber	Wombat Berry	Eustrephus latifolius	AN	Twining vine	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from tuberous rootstock	Soft twining understorey vine.	View photos
Vine/Climber	Twining Glycine	Glycine clandestina	AN	Twining vine	Low-Moderate	Facultative (legume, hard seed can be fire-cued)	Not on a strict cycle	Resprouts from rootstock + soil seed bank	Soft pea-flowered climber.	View photos
Vine/Climber	Wonga Vine	Pandorea pandorana	AN	Climbing vine	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from rootstock	Vigorous but relatively soft-leaved climber.	View photos
Vine/Climber	Sarsaparilla / Barbed Wire Vine	Smilax australis	AN	Woody, thorny vine	Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from rootstock	Woody, thorny stems can persist as dead flammable material if not managed.	View photos
Vine/Climber	Snake Vine	Stephania japonica	AN	Twining vine	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent	Resprouts from tuberous rootstock	Soft twining vine of forest margins.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Grey Myrtle / Ironwood	Backhousia myrtifolia	AN	Small tree	Low (if kept moist)	No / Sensitive - can be killed by hot fire	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive (no reliable resprout)	'Mesic' rainforest species - genuinely low flammability while well-watered, but offers no ecological fire tolerance and needs irrigation to perform this role.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	NSW Christmas Bush	Ceratopetalum gummiferum	AN	Shrub-small tree	Low-Moderate (if kept moist)	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive, weak basal resprout only after light fire	Popular low-flammability buffer plant; a hot fire will kill it outright.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Sassafras	Doryphora sassafras	AN	Tree	Low (if kept moist)	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive (rainforest species, generally killed)	Confined to moist gullies naturally; not a fire-adapted species at all.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Blueberry Ash	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	AN	Small tree	Low-Moderate	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive, some basal resprout	Reasonable buffer tree; moderate resprouting ability after low-intensity fire only.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Sandpaper Fig	Ficus coronata	AN	Small tree	Low (if kept moist)	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive, some basal resprout	Naturally a moist gully species; useful low-flammability tree close to the house if irrigated.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Native Frangipani	Hymenosporum flavum	AN	Tree	Low-Moderate to Moderate (if kept moist)	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive, limited resprout	Widely recommended ember-trapping canopy tree for APZs, but performance depends on maintained soil moisture. Also listed independently in the Tasmania Fire Service guide (rated 'Moderate') - merged here as the same species.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Muttonwood	Myrsine variabilis	AN	Small tree	Low-Moderate	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Some basal resprout	Rainforest-margin tree/shrub, benefits from moist positioning.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Sweet Pittosporum	Pittosporum undulatum	AN	Small-medium tree	Low-Moderate (if kept moist)	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Some basal resprout	Native here, but can become locally dominant/weedy in disturbed or fire-excluded sites in some regions - worth checking with local bushcare on management approach.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Elderberry Panax	Polyscias sambucifolia	AN	Shrub	Low-Moderate	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Some basal resprout	Rainforest-gully shrub, benefits from moist positioning.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Lilly Pilly	Syzygium sp.	AN	Shrub-small tree (often hedged)	Low-Moderate (if kept moist)	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Fire-sensitive, some basal resprout depending on species	Popular hedging/screening plant; a genuinely useful low-flammability buffer when irrigated, though many Lilly Pilly cultivars are prone to psyllid damage which can increase dead leaf litter - keep pruned.	View photos
Mesic/Buffer Tree or Shrub (irrigate)	Water Gum	Tristaniopsis laurina	AN	Small-medium tree	Low-Moderate	No / Sensitive	Not fire-dependent	Fire-tolerant relative to other mesic species (smooth bark, some resprout)	One of the more fire-hardy 'mesic' options; naturally grows in moist gullies but tolerates garden conditions well. Also submitted separately as 'Tristaniopsis laurestina' (likely a spelling variant) - merged here as the same species.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Wormwood/Angel's Hair	Artemisia sp.	Exotic	Perennial herb/shrub	High	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology	High essential-oil content and fine foliage; TFS rates it Low-Moderate when well maintained/irrigated, but our earlier general fire-ecology review flags it as higher risk if allowed to dry out - treat with caution.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Camellias	Camellia sp.	Exotic	Shrub	Low	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology	Waxy, moist, dense evergreen foliage.	View photos

KURRAJONG HEIGHTS PLANT RESEARCH SEP 2026											
Please send comments, updates and corrections to kh.rfs.community@gmail.com											
Category	Common Name	Botanical Name	E/TN/A N	Growth Form	Flammability Rating	Fire Required to Reproduce?	Approx. Fire Interval Needed	Fire Resistance / Response Type		Notes	Photo Search
Exotic Garden Plant	Chilli	Capsicum annuum var. fasciculatum	Exotic	Herb (annual/perennial)	Low	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Soft, moist, herbaceous.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	White Flag Iris	Diplarrena moraea	Tas Native	Strappy perennial (iris-like)	Low-Moderate	Not applicable (exotic to this region)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Tasmanian native; strappy leaves can dry and thatch if not maintained.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Treasure Flower	Gazania hybrida	Exotic	Groundcover	Low	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Low, semi-succulent groundcover.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Veronica	Hebe speciosa	Exotic	Shrub	Moderate	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Small waxy leaves but dense habit can trap dead material inside.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Day Lily	Hemerocallis aurantiaca	Exotic	Strappy perennial	Low-Moderate	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Strappy but moist leaves.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Hydrangea	Hydrangea macrophylla	Exotic	Shrub	Low	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Broad, soft, high-moisture leaves.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Spider Lily	Hymenocallis littoralis	Exotic	Bulb/succulent perennial	Low	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Succulent bulb, fleshy leaves.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Pigface / Iceplant	Lampranthus aurantiacus	Exotic	Succulent groundcover	Low	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Succulent, very high water content, minimal dead material.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	English Lavender	Lavandula angustifolia	Exotic	Shrub (herbaceous/woody)	High	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		High essential-oil content; TFS rates it Low when well maintained/irrigated and deadheaded, but treat with caution if allowed to dry out or go woody.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Magnolia	Magnolia sp.	Exotic	Shrub/small tree	Low-Moderate (if kept moist)	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Broad, glossy, moisture-retentive leaves make most Magnolia species a reasonable low-flammability choice if irrigated; deciduous types drop a seasonal dry leaf load that should be cleared.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Agapanthus	Agapanthus sp.	Exotic	Strappy clumping perennial	Low	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Fleshy, high-moisture strappy leaves make this a genuinely low- flammability border plant; however, Agapanthus praecox is an environmental weed in parts of NSW bushland, so it's best confined to garden beds well away from remnant bushland, with dead flower stems and seed heads removed.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Native Passionfruit	Passiflora herbertiana	AN	Vine/climber	Low-Moderate	No	Not fire-dependent (outside its normal fire-prone range context here)	Not assessed for local fire ecology		Australian native, but not naturally part of the local Hawkesbury sandstone flora - included here as a garden option.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Geranium	Pelargonium peltatum	Exotic	Trailing groundcover	Low-Moderate	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Some oils but generally moist and soft.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Dogwood	Pomaderris apetala	Tas Native	Shrub-small tree	Moderate	Not applicable (exotic to this region)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Tasmanian-sourced rating; note this genus/species also occurs naturally in parts of the Sydney region, so local fire behaviour may differ from the Tasmanian rating.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Plum	Prunus sp.	Exotic	Tree (deciduous)	Low-Moderate	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Deciduous, moist canopy, but woody structure and litter need managing.	View photos
Exotic Garden Plant	Eggplant	Solanum melongena	Exotic	Herb (annual)	Low	Not applicable (exotic garden plant)	N/A	N/A - not part of local fire ecology		Soft, moist, herbaceous.	View photos