



Botanist Rae Young's

Top 10 Tasmanian wildflowers



10. Climbing heath (*Prionotes cerinthoides* Ericaceae)

A striking rainforest climber or scrambling mountain shrub endemic to Tasmania, with large pink pendulous flowers. I often feel climbers and ground covers are the underdogs, and I want to promote them.



9. Blanket Leaf (*Bedfordia salicina* Asteraceae)

In the daisy family, this plant produces large quantities of pollen and provides nesting material and abundant food for insects at the 2-4 metre height. Who doesn't love a daisy!



8. Davies Wax Flower (*Phebalium daviesii* Rutaceae)

A critically endangered shrub endemic to Tasmania. Great success has been had in reestablishing the plant in the wild.



7. Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata* Proeaceae)

This plant needs no introduction. Producing rude amounts of nectar it attracts everybody, native birds, native wasps and bees, flies, gnats, lizards, pygmy possums – you name they are all there when this plant is around. If you only plant one Tasmanian native plant in your garden – make it this one.



6. Wedding Bush

(*Ricinocarpos pinifolius* Euphorbiaceae)

A small shrub with striking white flowers in spring, and magnificent fruit which adorns the plant for months. When in flower, this plant grabs your attention as it is quite stunning. It's been in my life for a long time and whenever we go walking on the east coast, where it is prevalent, I always look out for it.



5. Fringe Myrtle (*Calytrix tetragona* Myrtaceae)

This is a small shrub which when flowering is covered in starry white flowers. It's a tough attractive plant, and the only *Calytrix* in Tasmania. When it flowers it's totally covered in every sort of insect, drinking up the vast quantities of nectar – it's a habitat powerhouse.



4. Native Laurel (*Anopteryx glandulosus* Escalloniaceae)

Another one of our endemics, only found here in Tasmania, and such a striking plant with massive dark green leaves atop which a large raceme of white flowers sit from spring to summer. It's an understory beauty, thrives in damp shaded spots from the sea to lower mountain zones.



3. Native Box (*Alyxia buxifolia* Apocynaceae)

Sea box has thick and leathery foliage, which is mid-dark green in colour. In spring, white star-shaped flowers bloom and they are on beautiful orange stems, creating an elegant contrast to the dark green orbicular leaves. Sea box may also produce fleshy orange fruit if it is in the mood. Such a worthy plant for a garden.



2. *Sassafras Atherosperma*

(*moschatum* Atherospermataceae)

A small family of plants with some 14-16 plants in the world, with 7 genera, *Atherosperma* being one of them. And it is ours! Tasmania has the only *Atherosperma* in the world. So I think it is pretty special for that reason it is in my top 10 list of plants.



1. Tasmanian Purple Star (*Isophysis tasmanica* Iridaceae)

Why I choose this plant. Apart from its complete and utter beauty, it is the only *Isophysis* in the world, the only species in that genus. It is also a paleoendemic, so it's old, and grows only in the south west of Tasmania. It is in the iris family, Iridaceae, and it has no nectaries, so like other irises it does not appear to produce nectar to attract insects.



Sundays

with Lucie Cutting

on 936AM and the ABC listen app

