

Top 6 Bushfood Plants for School Gardens in Victoria

For Early Learning Centres and Schools

All of these plants are easy to buy, grow and use for pre-schools and schools.



Leaves

Coastal saltbush *Atriplex cinerea*

- Evergreen shrub to approx. 1.5 m high.
- Hardy and drought tolerant plant which does not like over-watering.
- Fresh leaves can be added to salads or crisped on top of pizzas.
- Indigenous to Victoria.



River mint, native mint *Mentha australis*

- Deciduous plant to 30 cm high.
- Drought tolerant once established.
- Prune by half in winter.
- Fresh leaves are delicious in tea, salads and fruit salads.
- Sensory garden plant. Fresh leaves can be crushed and smelled to enjoy the fragrance.
- Indigenous to Victoria.



Herbal tea



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Edible flowers

Native violet *Viola hederacea*

- Spreading groundcover, growing to around 10 cm high.
- Reasonably hardy although prefers some moisture.
- Flowers best in a sunny position.
- Edible flowers can be snacked on in the garden, added to salads and fruit salads or used to decorate cakes or desserts.
- Indigenous to Victoria

Native bluebell, tufted bluebell *Wahlenbergia communis*

- Small clumping plant to 40 cm high.
- Hardy plant, drought tolerant once established.
- Grows in full sun to semi-shade.
- Cut back by half in early winter.
- Edible flowers can be snacked on in the garden, added to salads and fruit salads or used to decorate cakes or desserts.
- Indigenous to Victoria.



Groundcover

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Berries

Appleberry *Billardiera scandens*

- Light climber to 1.5 m high or sprawling shrub to 1.5 m wide.
- Hardy plant, drought tolerant once established.
- Grows in full sun to part shade.
- Fruit ripens in February and tastes like spiced apple.
- Indigenous to Victoria



Ruby saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa*

- Sprawling shrub to 60 cm high and wide.
- Hardy and drought tolerant once established.
- Prune after fruiting to keep plant bushy.
- Berries can be red or orange when ripe.
- Use the salty-sweet fruit in salads or fruit salads or as a garden snack.
- Indigenous to Victoria.



Groundcover