

Environment Information Sheet

DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Matboerrma Garden



The Darwin International Airport established the Matboerrma Garden to showcase the Top End's unique native flora.

The Matboerrma Garden welcomes visitors to Larrakia country, Darwin and the Top End and provides a great introduction to the wet-dry tropics and its plants. The Larrakia are the traditional owners of the greater Darwin region. Matboerrma (pronounced mat-berd-ma) is a Larrakia word referring to a "group of plants".

Nestled between the terminal carpark, the airport hotels and the management precinct, the garden offers a short stroll along a shaded path with signs guiding the walker. The Matboerrma Garden takes you on a mini journey through some Top End plant communities including stone country, woodland, monsoon forest and riverine environments and a cycad feature. The garden incorporates paths, signage, seating facilities and a pond and water feature with a boardwalk over the pond.

Hotel guests frequently walk through the garden to access their accommodation from the terminal. The garden also provides airport staff with a space to revive and relax. As a model for native garden landscaping the garden provides an opportunity for local gardeners to gain inspiration for creating a bird attracting native garden.

Darwin International Airport began the native garden in 2002. Greening Australia designed and installed a more comprehensive

garden in 2004. Larrakia people kindly provided their knowledge, perspective and the name for the garden. Jasmine Foxlee worked for the airport to develop interpretative signs ready for the official garden opening in 2005. Larrakia people and Greening Australia helped to provide cultural and environmental information for the signs. The Larrakia Rangers fabricated stands from recycled World War II railway tracks, installed the stands and mounted the signs on them. Ian Kew, NT Airports Chief Executive Officer, opened the garden following a Larrakia welcome.

In 2008 the garden was further expanded and the design enhanced by landscape architect Ken Kirkman. Greening Australia were again commissioned to assist with additional planting.

In 2010 the signage was refreshed and expanded to include individual plant species signs. Pauline Clack designed the revised signs and Larrakia people were again engaged to assist with the content, they also assisted with some new plantings. Seven of the many Top End languages are represented on the individual plant signs. Solar powered lights were installed to complete the eco-friendly design. The new signs were launched by Ian Kew with the Larrakia women rangers conducting a welcome to country.

Airport staff continued their involvement with the garden by planting additional seedlings supplied by Greening Australia for World Environment Day in 2012. More mature cycads were transplanted into the garden in 2013 from development sites elsewhere on the airport.

MONSOON FOREST

Scientific name	Common name	Aboriginal name (language)
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	Black wattle	Puwarjji (Jawoyn)
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Red ash or soap tree	Ngarngil (Iwaidja)
<i>Alstonia actinophylla</i>	Milkwood	Jilit (Jawoyn)
<i>Brachychiton diversifolius</i>	Northern kurrajong	Wunya/Garl (Iwaidja)
<i>Breynia cernua</i>	Breynia	Gama awalk (Iwaidja)
<i>Callophyllum sil</i>	Native beauty leaf	
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>	Clerodendrum	Morlorrk (Jawoyn)
<i>Diospyros littorea</i>	Diospyros	Märi-burrurr (Yolŋu matha)
<i>Ficus scobina</i>	Sandpaper fig	Ingbulmarriwi (Iwaidja)
<i>Ganophyllum falcatum</i>	Ganophyllum	Mulunmuluny (Iwaidja)
<i>Horsfieldia australiana</i>	Horsfieldia	Tukutturukuni (Tiwi)
<i>Leea rubra</i>	Leea	An-garra-bitbit (Warray)
<i>Maranthes corymbosa</i>	Maranthes	Ngarnrdjardja (Iwaidja)
<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Pink euodia	Ilidbidbid (Iwaidja)
<i>Micromelum minutum</i>	Micromelum	Banakaka (Yolŋu matha)
<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	Mimusops	Yawurlama (Tiwi)
<i>Myristica insipida</i>	Native nutmeg	Alwarra (Iwaidja)
<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i>	Yellow Flame Tree	Wurrungmilurrungmil (Iwaidja)
<i>Pittosporum mollucanum</i>	Pittosporum	
<i>Premna serratifolia</i>	Firestick tree	Duttji (Yolŋu matha)
<i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>	Peanut tree	Dundil (Larrakia)
<i>Syzygium armstrongii</i>	Bush apple	Wurdurr (Iwaidja)
<i>Wrightia pubescens</i>	Wrightia	Wilit (Wagiman)

RIVERINE

Scientific name	Common name	Aboriginal name (language)
<i>Asteromyrtus arnhemica</i>	Asteromyrtus	
<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	Bush currant	Marrwiyak (Jawoyn)
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	River she-oak	Wumarn (Wagiman)
<i>Corymbia ptychocarpa</i>	Swamp bloodwood	Namaru (Iwaidja)
<i>Curcuma australasica</i>	Native ginger	Anbindjarra (Mayali)
<i>Cyclophyllum schultzei</i>	Canthium	Mamtakmo (Jawoyn)
<i>Fagraea racemosa</i>	Fagraea	Turukwanga (Tiwi)
<i>Hydriastele wendlandiana</i>	Hydriastele palm	Paliwuni (Tiwi)
<i>Leptospermum madidum</i>	Weeping ti-tree	
<i>Livistona benthamii</i>	Cabbage palm	Iwak (Iwaidja)
<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i>	Native lasiandra	Pilangpilang (Jawoyn)
<i>Pandanus spiralis</i>	Pandanus	Biyarmarma (Larrakia)
<i>Ptychosperma macarthurii</i>	Darwin palm	
<i>Syzygium fibrosum</i>	Small red bush apple	Tiwulama (Tiwi)
<i>Timonius timon</i>	Timonius	Wilngbilng (Iwaidja)

STONE COUNTRY

Scientific name	Common name	Aboriginal name (language)
<i>Acacia alleniana</i>	Allen's acacia	
<i>Acacia stigmatophylla</i>	Wattle	Karnpirr (Jawoyn)
<i>Allosyncarpia ternata</i>	Allosyncarpia	Tanak (Jawoyn)
<i>Grevillea dryandri</i>	Dryander's grevillea	Gama gurrundurr (Iwaidja)
<i>Grevillea formosa</i>	Mount Brockman grevillea	
<i>Hoya australis</i>	Native hoya	Kulipiyawuni (Tiwi)

WOODLAND

Scientific name	Common name	Aboriginal name (language)
<i>Acacia gonocarpa</i>	Wattle	
<i>Acacia latescens</i>	Wattle	Walum (Iwaidja)
<i>Acacia nuperrima</i>	Wattle	Manjarr (Dalabon)
<i>Acacia oncinocarpa</i>	Wattle	Walum (Iwaidja)
<i>Acacia orthocarpa</i>	Wattle	
<i>Acacia wickhamii</i>	Wickham's wattle	Manjarr (Dalabon)
<i>Amyema</i> sp.	Mistletoe	Djirnirrin (Dalabon)
<i>Buchanania obovata</i>	Green plum	Kurumal (Jawoyn)
<i>Chrysopogon elongatus</i>	Tall tamil grass	
<i>Corymbia bella</i>	Ghost gum	Komborloh (Dalabon)
<i>Cycas angulata</i>	Cycad	Ngakuya (Garrwa)
<i>Cycas armstrongii</i>	Cycad	Ngamamba (Larrakia)
<i>Cymbopogon bombycinus</i>	Native lemon grass	Djirr (Dalabon)
<i>Eucalyptus bigalerita</i>	Northern salmon gum	Kolokkolo (Dalabon)
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River red gum	Kokkolk (Dalabon)
<i>Eucalyptus herbertiana</i>	Herbert's gum	Lurnjan (Wardaman)
<i>Eucalyptus miniata</i>	Darwin woollybutt	Maminyjuma (Larrakia)
<i>Eucalyptus phoenicea</i>	Scarlet gum	Bilinj (Dalabon)
<i>Eucalyptus pruinosa</i>	Silver box	Korlanglang (Dalabon)
<i>Eucalyptus tetradonta</i>	Darwin stringybark	Manigurra (Larrakia)
<i>Eucalyptus tintinnans</i>	Salmon gum	Kolokkolo (Dalabon)
<i>Ficus aculeata</i>	Sandpaper fig	Yilid (Iwaidja)
<i>Grevillea aurea</i>	Grevillea	
<i>Livistona humilis</i>	Sand palm or Merrepen	Gwilirrimba (Larrakia)
<i>Planchonia careya</i>	Cocky apple	Wartuludj (Iwaidja)
<i>Syzygium suborbiculare</i>	Red bush apple	Mindilima (Larrakia)
<i>Vitex trifolia</i> subsp. <i>littoralis</i>	Beach vitex	Inmulanybanigi (Iwaidja)

This is a list of plants in the Matboerrma Garden, including those planted over the years. Bold means the species has an individual plant sign. Aboriginal language information collated from the NT Herbarium's biocultural knowledge series (*Northern Territory Botanical Bulletins* No. 21, No. 23, No. 24, No. 25, No. 29, No. 30, No. 33, No. 41) and *Gulumoerrgin Seasons* (by Gulumoerrgin/Larrakia language contributors and CSIRO) and also from Lorraine Williams in person.

CONTACTS

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