

Future Proof your Garden with

MODERN COASTAL PLANTING STYLE

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YOUR
LANDSCAPE
JOURNEY

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Introduction



Welcome to the Future Proof your Garden Series with Modern Coastal Planting Style guide. This guide is designed to help you select coastal plants in your outdoor space, whether you have a small balcony, expansive garden or a commercial space.

Coastal Planting styles have been trending in Australia recently, which is hardly surprising given how many of us live on or near the coast. According to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, as of 2021, approximately 85% of Australia's population lives within 50km of the coast.

Our guide will provide you with various coastal planting styles to help you choose plants that are adapted to coastal conditions, design tips and maintenance advice.

So, whether you're an avid gardener or an absolute beginner, our guide will help you take the initial step towards accomplishing a sustainable and thriving outdoor space utilising modern coastal style plants.

Let me guide you on Your Landscape Journey, discovering the secrets to creating a Modern Coastal Planting Style for your garden!



Happy creating!

Angela Maroney

Understanding modern coastal planting style

The modern coastal planting style is all about creating a garden that blends seamlessly with the natural environment. This style is characterised by the use of coastal plants, from both here (in Australia) and around the world that have adapted to the coastal climate and soil conditions. The aim is to create a resilient garden that can survive with minimal fertiliser and watering.

Some of the essential elements that can be used to create a modern Australian coastal planting style include:

1. Using both native and exotic coastal plants: Plants that have adapted to your local climate and soil conditions, this ensures that they are easier to maintain and thus more sustainable in the future. Exotic coastal plants, whilst still able to thrive in coastal climates, bring a unique beauty to gardens near the coast and create a tropical oasis ambience.
2. Utilising texture: Texture is an essential element of coastal gardens, can be achieved through the use of plants with various leaf shapes, sizes and colours.
3. Focal points: By considered placement of focal points such as sculptures or water features, can be used to add interest to the garden and draw the eye.
4. Utilising natural materials: Coastal gardens feature natural materials such as stone, wood and gravel to reflect the natural surrounding environment.



Best exotic plants for modern coastal planting style



When it comes to modern coastal planting style with exotic plants, there are a huge variety of plants that work well in this style. The following are some of the best exotic plants for modern coastal planting style in Australia:

- Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*): This plant originates from South Africa and produces beautiful orange and blue flowers that resemble the shape of a bird.
- Frangipani (*Plumeria* sp.): This tree is native to the Caribbean and produces stunning flowers with a sweet fragrance.
- Agave (*Agave attenuata*): This plant originates from Mexico and has a soft yet architectural shape
- Hibiscus (*Hibiscus* sp.): This plant is native to Mauritius, Madagascar, Fiji, Hawaii, and either China or India. Hibiscus produces large, colourful flowers in a variety of shades.
- Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea* sp.): this plant originates from South America and produces stunning flowers in shades of pink, red and purple.

Coastal plant selection

Coastal areas in Australia can be challenging for gardeners due to the salt, wind and sandy soil. Some plants that thrive in coastal areas include:

Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*)



Frangipani (*Plumeria sp.*)

Agave (*Agave attenuata*)



Hibiscus (*Hibiscus sp.*)

Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea sp.*)



These plants are adapted to the low nutrient levels and dry conditions of sandy soil and can tolerate salt and wind exposure.

Design tips for modern coastal planting style

When designing a modern coastal garden, there are a few key tips to consider:

Choose a colour scheme:

Coastal gardens often feature a limited colour palette, such as pinks, oranges and blues, to create a cohesive look.



Use Plants for Texture:

Make use of the wide range of leaf shapes, size and colours to create interest and texture in the garden.



Create Focal Points:

Use sculptures, water features or other elements to create focal points which draw the eye

Consider the view:

If your garden has a view of the ocean, consider incorporating elements that enhance the view, for example, a seating area or a water feature

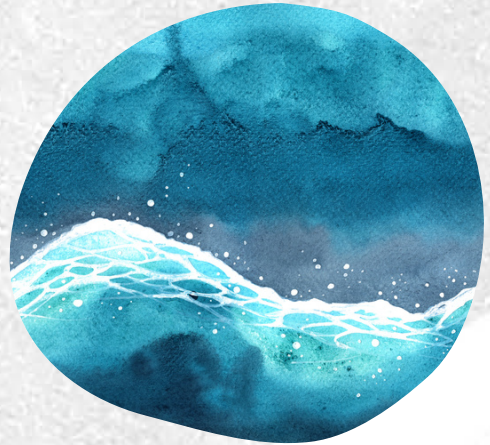


Maintenance advice for modern coastal planting style

While modern coastal gardens with exotic plants are generally low-maintenance, there are still a few considerations to keep in mind to ensure your garden stays healthy and beautiful:

Watering:

While exotic plants can be drought-tolerant, they can still require watering especially during hot, dry weather.



Pruning:

Regular pruning can help some plants retain a bushy and healthy habit whilst promoting new growth.



Mulching:

Mulching can help retain moisture in the soil and suppress weed growth.

Soil Health:

Coastal soils can be nutrient poor.



Plant Sourcing



If you're looking to create a modern coastal garden with exotic plants in Australia, there are a few ways you can source the plants you need:

- Your local nursery: Many local nurseries specialise in coastal plants and can provide advice on which species are best suited to your specific location. You can use the Nursery and Garden Industry Australia's website to find nurseries in your local area: <https://www.ngina.com.au/Finder>
- Online nurseries - There are many online nurseries that specialize in selling exotic plants, including those suited to coastal gardens. Ordering plants online can be convenient, especially if you're looking for rare or hard-to-find species. <https://bamboosouthcoast.com.au/>
- Plant fairs and markets - Throughout the year, there are many plant fairs and markets held across Australia where you can find a range of rare and exotic plants. It can also be a great way to connect with like-minded gardening enthusiasts <https://www.collectorsplantfair.com.au/>
- Garden tours - Some garden tours or open garden events may offer the opportunity to purchase plants from the garden owners or from local nurseries that have partnered with the event. [Ross Garden Tours](#)

While it is important to consider factors such as soil type, sun exposure, and salt tolerance when selecting plants for your coastal garden. You should also ensure that they are suitable for the Australian climate and that they are not invasive species that could harm the local environment.



Resources



The following are some resources that will help you to find the information you require to successfully select the best plants for your garden:

1. Houzz Australia: an online platform for home design and renovation, and features a section dedicated to coastal garden design in Australia. The website includes a variety of photos, articles, and design ideas for creating a modern coastal garden..
2. Gardening Australia: Gardening Australia is a television program and website that offers tips and advice on gardening, including Coastal plants and sustainable gardening practices.
3. The Gardenist: This Australian-based blog provides inspiration and resources for creating modern gardens, including coastal gardens. The website includes articles on garden design, plant selection, and garden maintenance, as well as a directory of garden designers and landscapers.
4. GardenDrum: is an Australian gardening blog that features articles on a wide range of topics, including coastal garden design. The website includes resources and inspiration for designing and maintaining gardens in coastal environments, as well as a directory of garden professionals and suppliers.
5. Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand: Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand is a professional organisation for botanic gardens and arboreta. They offer resources and events related to native plants and sustainable landscaping.

These resources offer a wealth of information on coastal plants and sustainable gardening practices and can be a great starting point for further learning and exploration.



Summary



Life is a journey of learning – keep going, keep growing. 😊

Tap into my 30+ years of experience to achieve your dream backyard oasis with Your Landscape Journey. You will gain personal access to my industry tips and tricks. Including ways to future proof your garden. Better yet, I'll also help guide you on how to keep your garden renovation project on time, on budget and looking good for years to come

Want to learn more about how to Future Proof your Garden Renovation? Why not, join the waiting list for the 5 Day Future Proof your Garden Challenge to learn how to select the best plants for your climate and micro-climate? With weather patterns becoming more extreme it makes sense to plan your garden to be strong and resilient. However, this doesn't mean you have to sacrifice beauty for practicality.

Keen to learn more? Sign up to the Wait-list for courses and workshops - coming soon

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is general in nature and does not take into account your personal situation. You should consider whether the information is appropriate to your needs, and where appropriate, seek professional advice from your Council, Landscape Architect or Landscape Designer or a Legal Expert.



*Let me guide you on
Your Landscape Journey,*

Do you have lots of questions or just feel like saying hello? Why not contact me directly for a chat about One-to-One Consultation!



Glossary

Glossary of terms used in this book:

Coastal Plants: Plants that are native or adapted to coastal environments and can withstand salt, wind, and other coastal conditions.

Exotic Plants: Plants that are not native to Australia but have been introduced and may offer unique textures, colors, and growth habits not found in native species.

Native Plants: Plants that are indigenous to Australia and have evolved to thrive in the local climate and soil conditions.

Coastal environment: An area near the coast, which can be characterised by salty air, sandy soil and high winds.

Drought-Tolerant Plants: Plants that can survive with minimal watering and are suited to the dry climate conditions of many Australian coastal regions.



Xeriscape: A landscaping style that uses drought-tolerant plants and design techniques to conserve water and reduce maintenance needs.

Planting Design: The arrangement of plants in a landscape which can be functional, aesthetic, ideally both.

Planting Styles: Different ways of arranging plants in a landscape, such as naturalistic style, formal style or modern coastal style.

Low-Maintenance Plants: Plants that require minimal care and upkeep, making them ideal for busy homeowners or commercial properties

Deciduous Plants: Plants that lose their leaves such as Plumeria sp. at the end of autumn.

Shrubs: Small to medium-sized woody plants, such as Hibiscus or Strelitzia reginae.

Trees: Large woody plants, such as Leptospermum and Melaleuca



Glossary

Coastal Grasses: Ornamental grasses that are adapted to coastal environments and can add texture and movement to a coastal garden.

Succulents: Plants that store water in their leaves and stems, making them well-suited to dry, coastal environments.

Groundcovers: Low-growing plants that spread quickly and cover large areas, providing erosion control and weed suppression.

Erosion Control: Techniques and plants used to prevent soil erosion, which is a common issue in coastal areas.

Tropical Plants: Plants that are native to tropical regions and may not be well-suited to the cooler temperatures and drier conditions of many Australian coastal areas



Subtropical Plants: Plants that are adapted to warm and humid climates and may thrive in some Australian coastal areas.

Palm Trees: Iconic tropical trees that can add height and texture to a coastal garden but may require regular maintenance and may not be adapted to all coastal environments.

Salt Tolerance: The ability of plants to withstand salt spray from ocean winds and sea water.

Sandy Soil: Soil with a high proportion of sand particles, which drains quickly and can lack nutrients and organic matter

Windbreaks: Trees or shrubs planted to block or redirect the wind, protecting other plants and creating microclimates for more delicate species.

Invasive Species: Non-native plants that can spread quickly and aggressively, often displacing native species and disrupting local ecosystems.

