

all attract honeyeaters and insects  
 tea trees (*Leptospermum laevigatum*, *L. juniperinum*, *L. scoparium*) – attract insects and nesting birds  
 grevilleas – most species attract honeyeaters and insects  
 paperbarks (*Melaleuca* species) – many species attract birds and insects  
 native fuchsias (*Correa lawrenciana*, *C. reflexa*) – attract birds and insects

#### Grasses and Small Plants

If you have an area that you can maintain with some weeding and mulching then consider a tussock grassland which will provide a home for many insects and reptiles. Inside a grass tussock is a protected microclimate popular with lizards and other small animals. Place some rocks and hollow logs in this area, for basking and shelter. Use indigenous species which may include:

*Poa*, *Lomandra*, *Danthonia* species, and kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) – for insects, lizards and small insect and seed birds like wrens and finches  
 native heath (*Epacris impressa*) – attracts honeyeaters  
 wattles (*Acacia suaveolens*, *A. myrtifolia*) – small early wattles for insects  
 kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthos* species) – attract wattlebirds and other honeyeaters  
 everlasting (*Helichrysum* species) – provide nectar for butterflies

christmas bells (*Blandfordia nobilis*) – attract honeyeaters  
 There may be a number of smaller indigenous plants that you could grow, perhaps small pea flowered plants and even orchids.

#### Prickly Plants

A thicket of prickly plants is vital for many small nesting birds. Sections of a windbreak could be planted with prickly plants (away from roads and paths). Plant a mixture of these at one to two metre spacings.

*Acacia armata*, *A. verticillata*, *A. echinula*, *A. oxycedrus*, *A. farnesiana*  
*Hakea sericea*, *H. nodosa*  
*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, *G. juniperina*  
*Leptospermum juniperinum*, *L. scoparium*  
*Bursaria spinosa*

A thorny thicket would combine well with a tussock grassland area. Once your thorny thicket is established you could interplant it with small climbers such as *Billardiera* species or *Clematis microphylla*. This will make the thicket even more dense. These climbers will also attract insects and birds. Birds like to use the fluffy seed heads to line their nests. If you already have thorny weedy plants on your land, such as African boxthorn, try growing some vigorous climbers over the top of them, such as *Kennedia rubicunda* or *K. nigricans*. This should starve the plant of light and ultimately kill it, but still retain the nesting site.

#### Trees

To be effective as a windbreak, trees should be fairly open, to allow about fifty percent of the wind through. Dense trees do not work well as a windbreak. When the wind hits very dense trees, such as cypresses, it tumbles over the top of them causing strong turbulence and funnels underneath them at even greater speed. Strong winds cause water loss from plants and soil. Plants close their stomata to stop water loss, but in doing so they also stop carbon fixation and so they stop growing. The growth of sheltered crops or pasture may be anywhere from a

third to twice as much as plants in an unsheltered paddock. Stock should be healthier and up to twenty percent heavier due to a combination of improved feed, shade and shelter from heat and cold stress.

Trees, especially gum trees, provide nesting sites for birds such as owls, and mammals such as insectivorous bats, possums and sugar gliders. Any tree which produces hollows in its branches or trunk, is particularly precious. Often it is the number of hollows which determines how many birds and bats live in your area.

paperbarks (*Melaleuca lanceolata*, *M. leucadendron*, *M. quinquenervia*) – attract bats, birds and insects  
 river she-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) – excellent windbreak and bird nesting tree, seed eaten by parrots  
 gum trees (*Eucalyptus* species) – all attract insects and birds  
*E. obliqua* – koala food tree  
*E. sideroxylon* – excellent for wattlebirds and other honeyeaters  
*E. leucocoxylon* – excellent for wattlebirds and other honeyeaters – good for nesting hollows  
*E. melliodora* – considered by many to be the best for honey  
*E. maculata* – koala food tree  
*E. globulus* – attracts honeyeaters and parrots  
*E. camaldulensis* – koala food tree – good for nesting hollows  
*E. viminalis* – koala food tree – fast growing – good for nesting hollows and small insectivorous birds  
*E. macrandra* – attracts honeyeater with its summer flowers  
*E. radiata* – koala food tree – good for small insectivorous birds  
 silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*) – attracts insects and birds  
 blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) – adaptable long-lived wattle with valuable timber  
 lightwood (*Acacia implexa*) – parrots and bronzewing pigeons eat seeds  
 black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) – quick growing but short-lived and often unstable – gum eaten by sugar gliders  
 coast banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*, and *B. serrata* for its summer flowers) – excellent for insects, honeyeaters, wattle-birds and parrots  
 figs (*Ficus macrophylla* and *F. rubiginosa*) – fruit for pigeons, flying foxes and insects.

ated with monocultures. A complex and more diverse ecosystem of plants and animals means that if any particular pest starts to take over the beneficial animals are likely to multiply and keep it under control. Using indigenous and wildlife attracting plants, a windbreak can be planted which is alive with useful creatures, as well as being beautiful and in keeping with the character of the Australian landscape.

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