



FLORA IDENTIFICATION RESOURCES

Flora Categories and Identification Resources

The Western Port Seagrass Partnership is seeking photos of living specimens of plants, fungi and lichen found in the Western Port Region. We are seeking these photographs from the community in order to create a public record of the species found in the region.

We are also requesting that photographers attempt to identify the common or scientific name of the species being submitted using the linked guides and indexes provided below.

Helping to identify the species will assist with the efficiency of uploading your contribution and will provide a great learning experience about how plants are identified and grouped.

To help identify the species you have photographed we have provided a few aids and tips. These include the main categories (classes) and the major families of plants, a list of key flora listed for the region as part of the Biosphere submission, and a number of links to web pages that may prove useful.

We suggest that you use field guides in the first instance (eg: Field Guide to the flowers & plants of Victoria) and look at ecosystem types (eg: Salmarshes, Marine) to narrow down the options. If you can narrow it down to a family of plants you can then use Google or the suggested web sites to search for descriptions and images of the species within that family. Complete identification may sometimes be difficult, but we request that you do your best.

Format of information required

- Class
- Family
- Common name
- Scientific name
- Source: Location / Photographer
- Information about species: (web link)
- Photo

Preferences

We request that you take photos of plants when in flower or showing fruiting bodies, and leaves – as these are key identifying features. With small plants it is easy to photograph the whole plant and have focused images of flowers and leaves. With larger plants several photographs may be required, a full shot showing surrounding habitat and closer shots of flowers, fruits and leaves. Insects pollinating flowers can also be contributed.



Flora Classifications

Marine Flora

Algae

Chlorophycophyta (Green Algae)
Chrysophycophyta (Golden Brown Algae)
Phaeophycophyta (Brown Algae)
Rhodophycophyta (Red Algae)

Seagrasses (Angiospermae – flowering plants)

Amphibolis
Halophila
Heterozostera
Zostera
Other

Coastal Flora

Succulent plants: (Includes)

Batis
Carpobrotus (Pigface)
Dissocarpus (Twin flower saltbush)
Dysphania (Crumbleweed)
Enchylaena (Ruby saltbush)
Halosarcia (Glasswort)
Portulaca (Pigweed)
Salsola (Saltwort)
Samolus (Brookweed)
Sarcocornia (Bead weed)
Selliera (Swamp mat)
Sesuvium (Sea purslane)
Suaeda (Seablite)
Tecticornia (Samphire)

Grasses, rushes and sedges

Baumea (Twig rush)
Cynodon (Greencouch)
Distichlis (Saltgrass)
Fimbristylis (Rusty sedge)
Gahnia (Saw-sedge)
Isolepis (Club rush)
Juncus (Rush)

Leptosperma (Sword grass)
Phragmites (Common reed)
Sporobolis (Saltcouch)
Triglochin (Arrow grass)
Xerochloa (Rice grass)

Shrubs

Atriplex (Creeping saltbush)
Samolus (creeping bushweed)

Trees

Avicennia (White Mangrove)
Melaleuca (Swamp paperbark)

Terrestrial / Catchment Flora

Classes

Algae (Fresh Water)

Mycota (Fungi)

Ascomycetes (sac fungi) (Gilled fungi, Pore fungi, Coral fungi, Puff balls, Spine fungi, Below ground fungi, Bracket fungi, Jelly fungi)
Basidiomycetes (club fungi) (Morels, Truffles, Yeast, Moulds)
Fungi imperfecti (Imperfect fungi)
Lichens

Bryophyta

Hepaticae (Liverworts)
Anthocerotae (Anthoceros)
Musci (Mosses)

Lycophyta (Club mosses & Quillworts)

Sphenophyta (Horsetails)
Pteridophyta
Filicinae (Ferns)
Gymnospermae (Conifers)
Angiospermae (Flowering Plants) (See families on the next page)



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Angiosperm (Flowering Plants) Families

Scientific Name	(Common Names)
Aceraceae	(Maples)
Actinidiaceae	(Gooseberry)
Agavaceae	(Century-plant/Agaves/Yucca)
Aizoaceae	(Pigface)
Akaniaceae	()
Alangiaceae	(Muskwood)
Alismataceae	(Arrowhead, Starfruit, Water Plantain)
Aloaceae	(Aloe Succulants)
Alseuosmiaceae	(Wittsteina / Crispiloba)
Amaranthaceae	(Celosia, Green amaranth, Small matweed, Chaff flower)
Anacardiaceae	(Sumac, Satinwood, Mango, Pepper tree, Burdekin plum)
Annonaceae	(Pond apple, Fitzalania)
Apiaceae	(Pennywort, Slender celery, Wild carrot)
Apocynaceae	(Allamanda, Frangipani, Oleander, Milky Pine)
Aponogetonaceae	(Cape pondweed)
Aquifoliaceae	(Holy)
Araceae	(Aroids, Arum lily, Monstera, Philodendron, Water lettuce)
Araliaceae	(Ginseng, Aralia, Celerywood, Umbrella tree)
Arecaceae	(Palm trees)
Aristolochiaceae	(Birthwort)
Asclepiadaceae	(Milkweed, Rubbervine, Calotrope)
Asteraceae	(Daisy family, Billy goat weed, Vernonia, Milk weed etc)
Austrobaileyaceae	(Tropical rainforest vines)
Avicenniaceae	(Mangroves, White mangrove)
Balanopaceae	()
Balanophoraceae	(Balanophora – root parasites)
Balsaminaceae	(Balsam, Busy Lizzie)
Basellaceae	(Olluco, Madiera vine)
Bataceae	(Saltwort)
Berberidaceae	(Berberis, Darwin's Berberis, Barberry)
Betulaceae	(Birch, Alder)
Bignoniaceae	(Jacaranda, Trumpet tree, Trumpet creeper, Tecoma)
Bixaceae	(Native Kapok tree)
Bombacaceae	(Bombax, Red silk tree)
Boraginaceae	(Borage, Heliotrope, Camel bush)
Brassicaceae	(Mustard, Wood bittercress, Peppergrass)



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Bromeliaceae	(Bromelads, Pineapple, etc)
Brunoniaceae	(Blue pincushion)
Buddlejaceae	(Butterfly bush)
Burmanniaceae	(Burmannia)
Burseraceae	(Mango bark, Brown cudgeree, Frankincense)
Byblidaceae	(Byblis)
Cabombaceae	(Aquatic Cabomba, Fanwort, Water-shield)
Cactaceae	(Cactus, Prickly pear)
Caesalpiniaceae	(Bauhinia, Cassia, Poinciana, Tamarind)
Callitrichaceae	(Water-starwort)
Campanulaceae	(Bellfower)
Cannabaceae	(Hops, Cannabis)
Cannaceae	(Canna Lily)
Capparaceae	(Caper, Prickly spider flower, Warrior bush)
Caprifoliaceae	(Honeysuckle, Albea, Laurustinus)
Cardiopteridaceae	(Citronella, Churnwood)
Caricaceae	(Paw Paw, Babco)
Caryophyllaceae	(Pink family, Canberra grass, Chickweed, Carnation)
Casuarinaceae	(Casuarina, She-oaks)
Celastraceae	(Orangewood, Bittersweets)
Centrolepidaceae	(Hairy centrolepis)
Cephalotaceae	(Australian pitcher plants)
Ceratophyllaceae	(Hornworts)
Chenopodiaceae	(Goosefoot, Roly-poly, Prickly saltwort, Tumbleweed)
Chrysobalanaceae	(Cocoa-plum)
Cistaceae	(Rock rose)
Clusiaceae	(Mongosteen, Mastwood, Gourka)
Combretaceae	(Damson, Indian Almond, Sea Almond)
Commelinaceae	(Spiderwort, Scurvy grass, Wandering Jew, Purple heart)
Connaraceae	(Zebrawood)
Convolvulaceae	(Convolvulus, Morning glory, Snake vine, Monkey Rose)
Corsiaceae	()
Corynocarpaceae	(Southern corynocarpus)
Costaceae	(Spiral ginger)
Crassulaceae	(Mother of millions, Stonecrop)
Cucurbitaceae	(Melons, Native bryony, Cucumbers, Balsam pear)
Cunoniaceae	(Cunonia, Crabapple, Dog Rose, Leatherwood, Rosewood)
Cuscutaceae	(Dodder)
Cymodoceaceae	(Amphibolis, Sea Nymph, Manatee-grass)
Cyperaceae	(Sedges, Club-rushes)



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Davidsoniaceae	(Davidson's plum)
Dichapetalaceae	()
Dilleniaceae	(Red beech, Guinea flower)
Dioscoreaceae	(Yam, Aerial yam)
Dipsacaceae	(Scabious)
Donatiaceae	()
Droseraceae	(Sundews)
Ebenaceae	(Persimmon, Ebony)
Elaeagnaceae	(Grey Ebony)
Elaeocarpaceae	(Quandong)
Elatinaceae	(Waterwort, Water-fires)
Epacridaceae	(Heath)
Ericaceae	(Pink Heath, Azalea, Rhododendron, Pandani)
Eriocaulaceae	(Pipewort, bog herbs)
Erythroxylaceae	(Coca, Turpentine tree, Brown plum)
Eucryphiaceae	(Stinkwood)
Euphorbiaceae	(Spurge, Kamala, Macaranga, Coffee bush, Buttonwood)
Eupomatiaceae	(Bolwarra, Copper laurel)
Fabaceae	(Acacias, Wattles, Salwood, Cassia, Indigo, Tamarind)
Fagaceae	(Sweet chesnut, Beech, Oak)
Flacourtiaceae	()
Flagellariaceae	(Whip vine, Bush cane, Supplejack)
Frankeniaceae	(Sea Heath)
Fumariaceae	(Yellow Corydalis, Climbing Fumitory)
Gentianaceae	(Centaurry, Persian violet)
Geraniaceae	(Geraniums, Heronsbill, Storkbill, Erodium)
Gesneriaceae	(Fieldia, Red trumpet, African violet)
Goodeniaceae	(Goodenia, Dampiera)
Grossulariaceae	(Featherwood)
Gunneraceae	(Gunnera)
Gyrostemonaceae	(Native poplar, Bell fruit tree)
Haemodoraceae	(Kangaroo Paws, Cottonheads)
Haloragaceae	(Parrotfeather, Milfoil, Myriophyllum)
Hamamelidaceae	(Sweetgum, Fringeflower)
Hanguanaceae	()
Hernandiaceae	(Grease nut)



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Himantandraceae	()
Hippocrateaceae	(Salacia)
Hydatellaceae	()
Hydrocharitaceae	(Water Thyme, Swamp Lily)
Hydrophyllaceae	(Phacelia)
Icacinaceae	(Apodyles, Citronella, Gomphandra)
Idiospermaceae	()
Iridaceae	(Iris, Diplarrena, Isophysis)
Juncaceae	(Rush, Woodrush, Juncus, Luzula)
Juncaginaceae	(Arrowgrass, Triglochin)
Lamiaceae	(Callicarpa, Lollybish, Mint weed, Lantana, Basil, Teak)
Lauraceae	(Laurel, Cinnamon, Bay tree, Avocado)
Lecythidaceae	(Mango pine, Cassowary pine, Cocky apple)
Leeaceae	(Bandicoot berry)
Lemnaceae	(Duckweed, Lemna, Wolffia)
Lentibulariaceae	(Bladderwort, Utricularia)
Liliaceae	(Lily, Spiny-headed mat-rush, Astelia, Milligania)
Limnocharitaceae	(Water poppy)
Linaceae	(Flax, Yellow Flax)
Loganiaceae	(Logania, Mitrasacme, Buddleia, Gelsenium)
Loranthaceae	(Mistletoe, Amyema, Denrophthoe)
Lythraceae	(Loosestrife)
Malpighiaceae	(Golden chain tree, Singapore holly)
Malvaceae	(Hibiscus, Flame tree)
Melastomataceae	(Miconia, Melastome, Tribouchina, Koster's curse)
Meliaceae	(Mahogany, Neem, Red Cedar)
Meliantaceae	(Honey flower, Melianthus)
Menispermaceae	(Moonseed, Hypserpa, Snake vine, Tinospora)
Menyanthaceae	(Buckbean, Wavy Marshwort, Liparophyllum)
Mimosaceae	(Acacia, Mimosa, Wattles)
Molluginaceae	(Carpet-weed, Galenia, Glinus)
Monimiaceae	(Sassafras, Anchor vine, Wilkiea, Socketwood)
Moraceae	(Ficus, Mulberry, Weeping Fig, Morton Bay fig)
Moringaceae	(Drumstick)
Musaceae	(Banana, Heliconia)
Myoporaceae	(Myoprum, Eremophila, Emubush, Tarbush)
Myristicaceae	(Nutmeg)



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- Myrsinaceae (Brookweed, Samolus, Pimpernel, Ardisia, Myrsine)
Myrtaceae (Eucalyptus, Leptospermum, Malaleuca, Callistemon)
- Najadaceae (Najas)
Nelumbonaceae (Nelumbo, Water lilies)
Nepenthaceae (Nepenthes, Pitcher plant)
Nyctaginaceae (Four o'clock, Boerhavia, Bougainvillia, Tarvine, Pisonia)
Nymphaeaceae (Water lilies, Nelumbo, Nymphaea)
- Ochnaceae (Mickey Mouse bush, Ochna)
Olacaceae (Olax)
Oleaceae (Native olive, Jasmine, Oleaceae, Notelaea)
Onagraceae (Ludwigia, Evening primrose, Epilobium)
Opiliaceae (Opilia)
Orchidaceae (Orchids, Cymbidium)
Orobanchaceae (Parasitic herbs, Lesser broomrape)
Oxalidaceae (Oxalis, Woodsorrel)
- Pandanaceae (Pandanus, Screw pine)
Papaveraceae (Poppies)
Passifloraceae (Passion flower, Passiflora)
Pedaliaceae (Sesame)
Philydraceae (Flax lily, Stream lily, Woolly Water lily, Frogmouth)
Phytolaccaceae (Inkweed, Pidgeon berry, Umbu, Corel berry)
Piperaceae (Peperomia, Giant pepper vine)
Pittosporaceae (Pittosporum, Boxthorn, Bursia)
Plantaginaceae (Plantain)
Plumbaginaceae (Leadwort, Native Sea Lavender)
Poaceae (Grass family, Reeds)
Podostemaceae (River-weeds)
Polemoniaceae (Phlox)
Polygalaceae (Polygala, Milkweed, Purple broom)
Polygonaceae (Dock, Lignum, Bindweed, Knotweed)
Pontederiaceae (Water hyacinth, Eichhornia)
Portulacaceae (Portulaca, Pigweed)
Posidoniaceae (Posidonia, Seagrass)
Potamogetonaceae (Pondweed, Potamogeton)
Primulaceae (Primula, Primrose)
Proteaceae (Banksia, Hakea, Grevillia, Telopea, Orites, Persounia)
- Rafflesiaceae (Rafflesia, Parasitic plants)



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Ranunculaceae	(Buttercups, Ranunculus, Clematis, Hellebore)
Resedaceae	(Weld, Cut-leaved mignonette)
Restionaceae	(Restio, Scale Rush, Cord Rush)
Rhamnaceae	(Buckthorn, Red ash, Red Almond, Sarsaparilla)
Rhizophoraceae	(Red Mangrove)
Rosaceae	(Native raspberry)
Rubiaceae	(Randin, Coffee, Gardenia, Leichard pine)
Ruppiaceae	(Pondweed, Sea-tassel)
Rutaceae	(Boronia, Citrus, Correa, Silver ash, Euodia)
Salicaceae	(Polars, Salix, Willows)
Santalaceae	(Sandalwood, Santalum)
Sapindaceae	(Soapberry, Bonaree, Sticky hopbush, Balloon vine)
Sapotaceae	(Sapodilla, Pouteria, Brown Pearwood, Plum Boxwood)
Saxifragaceae	(Saxifrage)
Scrophulariaceae	(Figworts, Foxglove)
Simaroubaceae	(Tree of heaven, Brucea)
Smilacaceae	(Greenbrier)
Solanaceae	(Nightshade family)
Sonneratiaceae	(Sonneratia)
Sparganiaceae	(Bur-reed, Sparganium)
Sphenocleaceae	()
Stackhousiaceae	(Stackhousia)
Stemonaceae	(Stemona)
Sterculiaceae	(Kurrajong, Lasiopetalum)
Stylidiaceae	(Trigger plant, Stylidium, Phyllachne, Fosteria)
Surianaceae	(Suriana, Stylobasium)
Symplocaceae	()
Taccaceae	(Tacca)
Tamaricaceae	(Tamarix)
Theaceae	(Camellia / Tea)
Thymelaeaceae	(Daphne)
Tiliaceae	(Linden)
Tremandraceae	(Tremandra)
Trimeniaceae	(Woody climbers)
Triuridaceae	()
Tropaeolaceae	(Nasturtium)
Turneraceae	(Turnera)
Typhaceae	(Cattail)



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Ulmaceae.....	(Elm)
Urticaceae	(Nettle)
Valerianaceae.....	(Valerian)
Verbenaceae	(Verbena)
Violaceae	(Violets)
Viscaceae	(Christmas mistletoe)
Vitaceae	(Grapes)
Winteraceae.....	(Winters bark)
Xanthophyllaceae.....	(Cheesewood / Yellow boxwood)
Xanthorrhoeaceae.....	(Grasstree)
Xyridaceae	(Yellow-eyed Grass)
Zannichelliaceae.....	(Horned pondweed)
Zingiberaceae	(Shell / White Ginger)
Zosteraceae	(Seagrass / Eelgrass)
Zygophyllaceae.....	(Caltrop / Goats head burr)

Regional Plants Listed Biosphere Application – refer to “Flora_specieslist.pdf”

This is a useful starting place to see what types of plants can be expected to be found in different ecosystems.

Helpful Guides and Indexes

[Algae Base](#)

[Australia Plants](#)

[Australian Algae](#)

[Australian Bryophytes](#)

[Australian Lichens](#)

[Australian Plant Image Index](#)

[Catalogue of Mosses](#)

[Discover Nature at JCU](#)

Families of Flowering Plants of Australia – [Interactive Identification Guide](#)

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Other Hints

1. It is often useful to obtain Field guides, purchased or loaned from libraries, as these are easy to scan for photos that look like what you have photographed and often provide advice about the range of species found in different regions and ecosystems.
2. Once you have a general idea of the family of plant you are dealing with, such as Orchids or Banksias, search the web for further information of these families where you will often find photographs or drawings which you can match against.
3. Finally, call on your local experts at nurseries, landcare, DSE, Parks Victoria, plant societies and the Royal Botanic Garden Herbarium staff.