

PLANT WHAT? WHERE?

URBAN LUSH: PUTTING THE COOL BACK INTO GARDENING



INNER CITY LIVING PROVIDES MANY ADVANTAGES, BUT SOMETIMES IT CAN FEEL THAT THE TRADE-OFF FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF AN EASY COMMUTE IS A SMALL, STRIPPED-BACK, LOW MAINTENANCE YARD. BUT JUST BECAUSE YOUR GARDEN IS SMALL DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO COMPROMISE ON IMPACT; WITH SOME STRATEGIC PLANT SELECTIONS, YOU CAN ACHIEVE THAT LUSH, TROPICAL LOOK THAT WILL TURN YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE INTO A PLACE TO SEEK REFUGE AND RECHARGE FROM YOUR BUSY LIFE.

TURNING GREY INTO GREEN

Research has shown that cities can be up to 5 degrees warmer than the surrounding countryside in Summer. Paved courtyards have replaced the traditional backyard lawn, while dark coloured roofing absorb the sun's heat, increasing our reliance on air conditioning. The truth is, residential gardens have the potential to make the greatest impact in lowering our city's temperatures, while also improving general health and wellbeing.

Look for plants that not only soften hard lines and surfaces visually, but also help reduce the outside temperature. Consider plants with dark green, glossy foliage that will absorb the sun's heat in the height of Summer, and cool your surrounds.

A lush garden doesn't have to mean high maintenance. There are many low maintenance plant options that can be used to create your green refuge. The trick is to choose plants that perform well in your specific conditions, taking into consideration the amount of sunlight and available space. Look for shade-loving plants, as well as plants that are grown to perform in Victorian climates.

Escaping the hustle and bustle of everyday life can be challenging. A lush garden is a thing of beauty, not to mention the health benefits of urban green space. So why not invest in your health and wellbeing, and enjoy the therapeutic - and aesthetic - advantages of your own green oasis.



URBAN LUSH PLANT SELECTIONS

SMALL / GROUNDCOVER



PACHYSANDRA TERMINALIS (JAPANESE SPURGE)

This shade loving groundcover has a spreading habit that creates a dense carpet-like cover of leathery dark green leaves that are arranged in tight bunches at the end of short stems. Ideal for shady areas of your garden.



HELLEBORUS 'CINNAMON SNOW' AND 'HONEYHILL JOY'

Known as the 'Winter Rose', this is an excellent plant for massing under trees and for other shaded areas of the garden. Cream centred, white flowers emerge in late Winter over a shiny, deep green foliage with blue tinges.



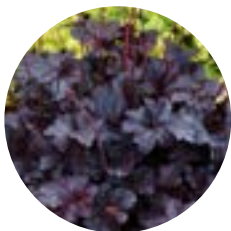
LIRIOPE 'EL MARCO'^{PBR}

This evergreen grass with a clumping habit is perfect for use in Modern Native, Tropical and Formal designs. Features dark green, glossy foliage. Plant en masse under trees or informal borders for a fine grass effect.



HEDERA HELIX 'PITTSBURGH' (ENGLISH IVY)

A low-growing and spreading variety of Ivy featuring small, dense, dark-green, pointy, triangle-shaped leaves. Perfect for as a groundcover or as a clinging vine for wall.



HEUCHERA 'PEPPERMINT SPICE' AND 'OBSIDIAN'^{PBR}

Add some colour to your garden with this shade-loving perennial. They will take full sun, but are best suited to semi-shaded areas. Tall delicate heads with small flowers rise will appear in Spring, but it is the striking, rich coloured foliage that makes Heuchera remarkable.

MEDIUM PLANTINGS



GARDENIA 'AIMEE YOSHIBA'

Exquisite white, beautifully perfumed blooms which contrast against dark green glossy foliage. These versatile plants look terrific as a low hedge or as underplantings.



PHILODENDRON 'XANADU'

Popular for its lush foliage and dramatically lobed leaves. Requires high light conditions in cooler climates for optimal growth. Can be planted in drifts for a mass tropical display, or combines well with other plantings.



LIGULARIA RENIFORMIS

Add texture to the garden with this lush perennial featuring large, glossy dark green 'tractor seat' foliage. Great for underplanting a pleached hedge or feature tree.



PLECTRANTHUS 'MONA LAVENDER' PBR OR 'VELVET ELVIS'

A wonderful solution to shady areas in the garden. Plumes of coloured flowers appear through Autumn complimenting the ornamental foliage of deep green leaves with dark wine purple coloured undersides. Excellent in mass or mixed plantings or as a great border.



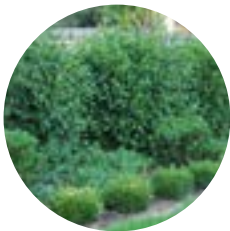
RHAPHIOLEPIS INTERMEDIA

This hardy plant can survive in almost any area of the garden. Features with dense leathery foliage with mildly perfumed clusters of small white flowers through summer. Makes a great mid-height hedge.



AUCUBA 'ROZANNIE'

Also known as Japanese laurel, Aucuba japonica 'Rozannie' features lance-shaped glossy green leaves. A great filler in shady areas with impressive foliage when planted en masse. Works well for a Japanese inspired design.



FICUS 'FIGARO' PBR

If you're looking for a tropical effect, this super-tough evergreen with lush green foliage is an excellent choice. Can be grown and shaped into tight narrow positions.

SMALLER TREES



JAPANESE MAPLES

Having a small garden doesn't mean you can't make a statement. Japanese maples are ideal for creating visual interest in a small space. Being deciduous, they put on a show in Autumn with their changing foliage colour. Check out Acer Senkaki, with its stunning coral bark, for continued colour through the Winter months.



TRISTANIOPSIS 'LUSCIOUS' PBR

This is a great native alternative to Magnolia. Shiny foliage topped off with red coloured new growth and yellow flowers with a sweet perfume. Bark is a striking port colour that peels back revealing a mottled cream stem.

SMALLER TREES (CONT'D)



MAGNOLIA ALBA

This evergreen tree features small flowers and grows to 6 metres in Melbourne. It is ideal as a large informal screen. On a warm humid night, the scent from the flowers can be enjoyed from a great distance.

TALL / SCREENING



PRUNUS LUSITANICA

Glossy dark green leaves with slender spikes of small, scented white flowers in late Spring. Creates a dense, thick dark green screen when clipped. Stunning as a flowering pleached hedge.



LAURUS 'GREEN STEM'

This Bay Laurel is a fantastic alternative to Ficus 'Flash', suited to Melbourne's temperate climate. Features dark green foliage, and bright green new growth. Clip twice a year for a formal look.



ELAEOCARPUS EUMUNDI

A lush selection for screening and hedging, featuring rich red/burgandy new growth against dark green foliage. This upright specimen is ideal along fence lines where space is limited and dense screening is required.



MAGNOLIA 'ST MARY'

If you're looking for a traditional look, this evergreen magnolia will grow in a wide variety of conditions. Produces large fragrant flowers during the warmer months. Create a more contemporary look with smaller underplantings.



CAMELLIA JAPONICA

Camellia japonica brings a burst of colour in the heart of Winter with its beautiful blooms - colours range from vibrant reds to more subtle whites and pinks. Versatile by nature it can take many forms – a flowering hedge, a feature tree or espaliered to conceal an unattractive wall. Thrives in dappled light.