

This plant list serves as a guide for someone wanting to start a mini food forest in a suburban garden. This plant list is not for a traditional food forest, it combines food producing plants with other perennial plants and native shrubs to make it lower maintenance and look good year round.

It's loaded with easy growing hardy plants – great for beginners, its low-maintenance, supports pollinators, provides a cool micro-climate, enhances biodiversity, and provides some fresh produce.

Small Trees



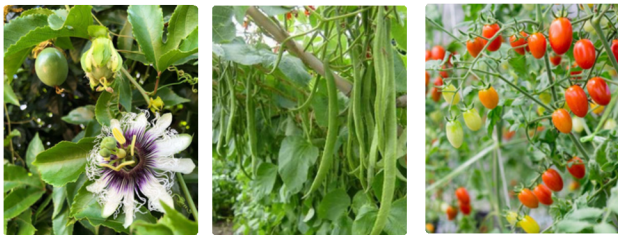
Dwarf lime or mandarin – Only plant things you like to eat. Citrus takes a few years to fruit so the sooner you get one in the ground the better! **Mulberry** – Fast-growing, attracts birds, kids love them! | **Acacia** (Wattle species) – Native nitrogen fixer, soil builder, looks stunning when in bloom in winter

Shrubs



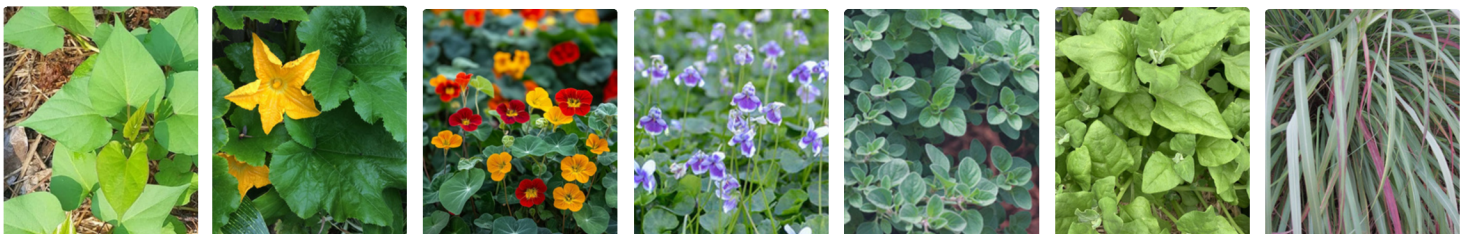
Salvia – So easy to grow, flowers most of the year & looks like lavender – Excellent for bees & butterflies | **Grevillea** – Native, attracts nectar feeders | **Banksia** – Native, beautiful, hardy, long-flowering | **Tea Tree** – Native, medicinal, attracts bees | **Basil (Tulsi/Holy Basil)** – Culinary and Medicinal, drought tolerant, pest repellent, flowers year-round, supports bees | **Westringia** – Native, also known as coastal rosemary, is a hardy, drought-tolerant native shrub that provides habitat for beneficial insects, comes in a beautiful soft grey/green variety (grey box) | **Rosemary** – Perennial culinary herb (doesn't die off), drought tolerant, pest repellent, flowers attract pollinators, stabilises soil, delicious!

Vines



Passionfruit – Fast-growing vine, attracts bees | **Snake Bean (Yardlong Bean)** – Thrives in heat, high-yielding | **Climbing Tomatoes** – Fast-growing, highly productive, attracts pollinators and often self-seeds throughout the garden.

Ground covers/ other



Sweet Potato – Edible groundcover | **Pumpkin** – Sprawling, productive | **Nasturtium** – Edible leaves, flowers, & ground cover, will pop up year after year | **Native Violet** – Edible flowers, ground cover | **Oregano** is a fantastic edible ground cover that suppresses weeds, attracts pollinators, and improves soil health | **Warrigal Greens** Native, fast-growing, It's edible, drought-tolerant, and protects the soil | **Lemongrass** – Culinary, insect repellent

This list is not exhaustive, there are so many plants that can be added. I recommend these plants to start with as they are accessible, easy to grow, once established are very low maintenance – I've grown them successfully in the subtropical climate of South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales. If you wanted to expand you could include things like **papaya, bananas, dragonfruit, cucumbers and zucchinis, ginger, turmeric and annual herbs** (ones that die off after a season). Climate and soil conditions will be different in your area, you may need consult a specialist for site specific advice.