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Hamersley Range.

Photo – Cliff Winfield/DEC

Other plants in this series

- Date palm
- Leucaena
- Lippia
- Oleander

More information

For more information about these plants, appropriate control methods or native plant availability, contact:

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Photos – Alison McGilvray/DEC except where otherwise acknowledged

What to grow instead of Cotton palms


If you grow me in the wrong place,
I can be an **INVASIVE WEED**



200909604-0609-500



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The curse of the cotton palm...

Cotton palm reduces biodiversity and habitat for native fauna, and infests creeklines, impeding flow and displacing native wetland vegetation.

The American cotton palm (*Washingtonia filifera*) is commonly planted as an ornamental street and landscape tree. Native to south western USA and Mexico, the cotton palm grows and seeds prolifically in arid areas near waterways.

Cotton palms are spreading rapidly through creeklines at Tom Price, Dampier and Millstream. The abundant seeds are widely dispersed by birds and in mulch.

If you grow these plants, ensure they are **well contained within your garden** and remove young plants immediately by digging, or with an approved herbicide.



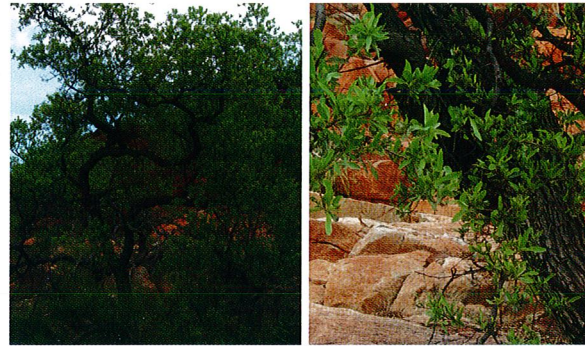
Plant us instead, we're locally native and non-invasive

Consider growing these plants as an environmentally responsible alternative.

Wingnut tree

Terminalia canescens

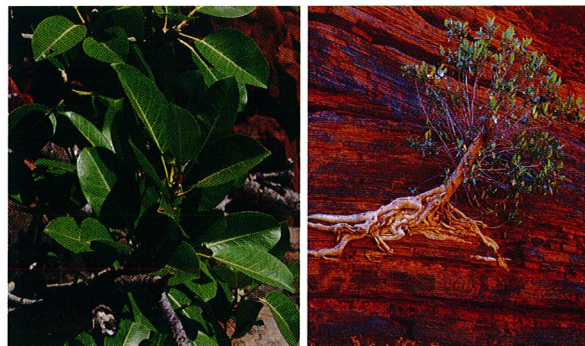
Sometimes deciduous, *Terminalia* is a tree to 10 metres which retains its leaves in summer if watered. It is a remnant species of the temperate rainforest which once covered the Pilbara. It has attractive foliage that provides good shade.



Rock fig

Ficus brachypoda

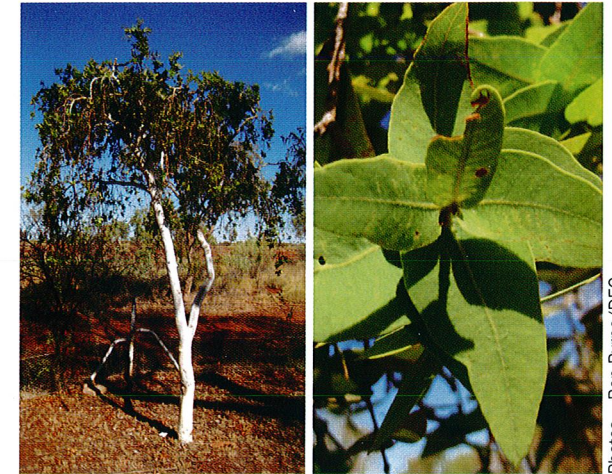
A small tree to three metres tall with large green glossy leaves and twisted roots. It is well shaped and attractive in cultivation. This species is suitable for rockeries.



Rough-leaved ghost gum

Corymbia aspera

The Rough-leaved ghost gum tree grows to 10 metres. It has uniquely textured leaves and a smooth powdery white trunk. This species grows well in heavy, alluvial clay or sandy soils, but may require extra conditioning in very rocky areas.



Photos - Ben Byrne/DEC

Why locally native plants?

Local indigenous plants bring a sense of uniqueness and identity to a region. They require little maintenance, fertiliser, water, and give multiple environmental benefits – providing wildlife habitat, contributing to a balanced ecosystem and maintaining local biodiversity.

So try us out!