

Tasmanian Garden Escapes

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Under comparatively mild conditions and with a well distributed rainfall, it is not surprising to find many garden plants, particularly those of British origin, that have found conditions well-suited to their development and increase in Tasmania.

In order to simplify this discussion the following definitions may be of assistance:—

- (1) a “garden plant”, in its most general sense, is a flower, fruit, vegetable, herb or ornamental normally cultivated in Tasmanian gardens for house use or ornamental purposes.
- (2) a “garden escape”, then, is a garden plant as defined which has found local conditions so favourable that it has spread beyond the bounds of the original cultivated or enclosed area and proved its ability to compete successfully with native and other flora.

However, it is often difficult to be precise. For example, Poppies, Blue Echium, Chamomile and even Horehound and Scotch Heather may have been introduced and used as garden plants here, but are regarded as wild flowers in Great Britain. Again they might have come in pasture or grain seeds, an origin which could be presumed to exclude them from the category of a “garden escape”. Another query in regard to the use of the term “escape” is the matter of degree—how often and how effectively must a plant escape to place it in the true escape class, and where can the line be drawn? Most of the plants listed could be classed as frequent and definite.

Bearing in mind these considerations, the list which follows, though open to considerable criticism, endeavours to cover the field as it appears at the present time. Most of the “common names” given are of English origin but variations in usage often occur. So far as the Botanical names are concerned a number of specimens may require further checking in regard to species. Under the heading “Observations” reference is first made to frequency and distribution, then the situation or local conditions

which it apparently favours, and finally one or two of the districts or locations where the plant has been seen.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Family	Observations
Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i> (L.) Desv.	Cruciferae	Road cuttings, rocky banks, e.g., Austins Ferry, &c.
Convolvulus	<i>Calystegia sepium</i> (L.) Roem. et Schult.	Convolvulaceae	Scattered, e.g., suburban
Daisy Bush (yellow)	<i>Eutypops abrotanifolius</i> D.C.	Compositae	Scattered and frequent Channel areas
Daisy (rock)	<i>Felicia erigeroides</i> D.C.	Compositae	Scattered, suburban
Eschscholtzia	<i>E. californica</i> Cham.	Papaveraceae	Occasional on good soils, Kingston
Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i> Ehrh.	Boraginaceae	Scattered and frequent: creek beds, &c., N.W. and Fingal
—	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i> (L.) Hill	Boragineae	Roadsides, Eaglehawk Neck
—	<i>Myosotis palustris</i> L.	Boragineae	Roadsides, National Park
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> L.	Scrophulariaceae	Scattered and frequent, Pyengana, Wyena, &c.
Honesty	<i>Lunaria annua</i> L. (Syn. <i>Lunaria biennis</i> Moench)	Cruciferae	Occasional, roadsides, Kingston and suburban
Lupin	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i> L.	Leguminosae	Scattered and extensive: Seven Mile Beach, Brid- port
Linaria	<i>L. bipartita</i> Wild	Scrophulariaceae	Occasional, sands, coastal and suburban
Marigold (Pot.)	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> L.	Compositae	Scattered, suburban
Musk	<i>Mimulus moschatus</i> Doug.	Scrophulariaceae	Scattered, ditches, Nat. Park, Lilydale
Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i> L.	Scrophulariaceae	Scattered and extensive, Sorell, &c.
—	<i>Verbascum virgatum</i> Stokes	Scrophulariaceae	Frequent, roadsides, Bushy Park
Mignonette (Dyer's Rocket)	<i>Reseda luteola</i> L.	Resedaceae	Scattered and extensive: Sorell, Sandfly, &c.
Oxalis (pink)	<i>O. latifolia</i> H.B. et K.	Geraniaceae	Scattered and extensive: suburban
Oxalis (Sour- sob) (large yellow)	<i>O. cernua</i> Thunb.	Geraniaceae	Scattered, suburban
Blue Echium (Patersons Curse)	<i>E. plantagineum</i> L.	Boraginaceae	Scattered, North East and Tamar
Blue Echium (Vipers Bugloss)	<i>E. vulgare</i> L.	Boraginaceae	Scattered, North East and Tamar
Poppy	<i>Papaver somniferum</i> L.	Papaveraceae	Scattered, general, e.g., Sassafras and North West
Scabious	<i>S. atropurpurea</i> L.	Dipsacaceae	Scattered, roadsides and suburban
Valerian (spur)	<i>Centranthus ruber</i> (L.) D.C.	Valerianaceae	Scattered, extensive, gen- eral, banks and cuttings, Kingston, suburban
Winter Helio- trops	<i>Petasites fragrans</i> (Vill.) C. Presl.	Compositae	Scattered and suburban

SHRUBS

Common Name	Botanical Name	Family	Observations
Broom (Canary)	<i>Cytisus monopessulanus</i> L.	Leguminosae	General and extensive, Kingston, Scottsdale, &c.
Broom (Common)	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> Link	Leguminosae	General and extensive, Kingston, Scottsdale, &c.
Hypericum (Rose of Sharon)	<i>H. calycinum</i> L.	Guttiferae	General roadsides, Bruny Is., North and North West
Hypericum (Tutsan) L.	<i>H. androseumum</i>	Guttiferae	General roadsides, Bruny Is., North and North West
Fuchsia	<i>F. magellanica</i> Lam.	Onagraceae	Occasional, e.g., Oyster Cove, West Coast and Coastal
Heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i> Rud.	Ericaceae	General and extensive, Huon, Lilydale, &c.
Heather (Scotch)	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> (L.) Hull	Ericaceae	Occasional on acid sands Kingston, Bruny Is.
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i> L.	Apocynaceae	Scattered and general, roadsides, Cressy West Tamar
Tree Lucerne	<i>Cytisus proliferus</i> L.	Leguminosae	Scattered, roads, suburban
<i>Four other shrubs might qualify in this section—</i>			
Barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> L.	Berberidaceae	Frequent southern districts, Sorell
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq.	Rosaceae	General, e.g., Cressy and Lake River
Laurel	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> L.	Lauraceae	Occasional, e.g., Tamar
Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> L.	Rosaceae	General and extensive, Brighton, Conara
African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> Miers	Solanaceae	Originally planted as shelter hedges and ornamental in exposed situations, has also spread, particularly in the central districts, Tunbridge, &c.

BULBS AND CORMS

The following plants, though multiplying in most instances mainly by bulbs or corms, have succeeded doubtless mainly by mechanical distribution, in establishing themselves firmly in many localities.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Family	Observations
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus Pseudo-Narcissus</i> L.	Amaryllidaceae	Frequent and general fields and ditches, Channel, Tamar
Ixia	<i>I. maculata</i> L.	Iridaceae	Scattered, mainly suburban, Tarroona
Watsonia	<i>W. meriana</i> Mill var. <i>iridifolia</i> Ker-Gawl.	Iridaceae	Scattered, Huon, Gordon, Mt. Direction, East Tamar

FRUITS

Common Name	Botanical Name	Family	Observations
Blackberry	<i>Rubus</i> spp.	Rosaceae	General and extensive, hedges and waterways
Cherry (Kentish)	<i>Prunus cerasus</i> L.	Rosaceae	Scattered and amongst hedges, &c., Huon and foothills, East Coast
Cherry Plums	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Ehrh.	Rosaceae	Scattered and amongst hedges, &c., Huon and foothills, East Coast
Plums	<i>Prunus domestica</i> L.	Rosaceae	Scattered and amongst hedges, &c., Huon and foothills, East Coast
Apple (seedling)	<i>Pyrus malus</i>	Rosaceae	Scattered, hedgerows, &c., Scottsdale, Channel, Huon

VEGETABLES AND HERBS

Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	Compositae	Scattered, roadways and embankments, e.g., Claremont
Chamomile	<i>Anthemis nobilis</i> L.	Compositae	Scattered, mainly suburban
Salsify	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i> L.	Compositae	Scattered, mainly suburban
Water Cress	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i> R.Br.	Cruciferae	Scattered and general, creek beds, e.g., Bridgenorth
Mint	<i>Mentha piperita</i> L.	Labiatae	Scattered and general, ditches, Sheffield

TREES

Elm (corky bark)	<i>Ulmus thomasi</i> Sarg.	Ulmaceae	Scattered, Kingston, Perth, &c.
Pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i> Don.	Coniferae	Scattered and general, Longley, Tunnel Hill
Willow (weeping)	<i>Salix babylonica</i> L.	Salicineae	Scattered and general, rivers and waterways
Willow (white × crack)	<i>S. alba</i> × <i>fragilis</i>	Salicineae	Scattered and general, rivers and waterways.

The following trees have been noticed occasionally, mostly as isolated trees or groups of two or three—

Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.	Oleaceae	Scattered and suburban
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> L.	Sapindaceae	Scattered and suburban
Birch	<i>Betula alba</i> L.	Cupuliferae	Scattered and suburban

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REFERENCES

Identification and nomenclature has been based on the following works:—

- “Flora of the British Isles” Clapham, Tutin, and Warburg.
- “Manual of Cultivated Plants” L. H. Bailey.
- “Wayside and Woodland Blossoms” Edward Step.