

“Getting to know a Local Native Plant”

Use this activity as an alternative to Mung Bean/ tomato seed growing activity.

Forward planning and good preparation prior to the commencement of this unit may include a phone call and visit to your local community or commercial Native Plant Nursery to order a class size local native educational package (outlined below). The Sunshine Coast has a number of community not for profit native plant nurseries that specialize (for Local Biodiversity improvement) in collecting local seed and native species materials for commercial propagation purposes. These organizations play an important role in for local environmental sustainability and are staffed with passionate experts and volunteers who are highly knowledgeable about [species that grow or should be growing in our local areas](#). Nursery staff and volunteers in community organizations such as [Coolum Native Nursery](#) often engage in assisting schools and teachers with information to enhance local environment knowledge, suitable selection of local native plants for school grounds anywhere in the Sunshine Coast Region and sometimes even [FREE Plants for Schools!](#) Local Native Community Nurseries enjoy working with teachers and their students and may be interested in assisting you with a class excursion to the nursery.

Talk to the [Community Local Native Nursery](#) or the local native nursery in your area about developing a regionally appropriate NATIVE SPECIES classroom propagation package that can include:

- Information about the Local Native Species in your class package (including habitat, community, wildlife it supports, vulnerability, threats to survival, care and management of the species, where it occurs naturally etc.)
- Germinating/propagating instructions for seeds including scarifying techniques
- An example of your Local Native Plant’s Seed Pods
- Seeds of your Local Native Plant (enough for every student for school and home)
- Seed germinating tray and small pots (try 2 per student)
- Propagating soil
- Numerous spray bottles for gentle watering
- Class pack of kids size gloves
- 30 healthy propagated seedlings, well on their way to being recognizable plants
- At least 3 potted established plants – ready to go in an appropriate place in the school grounds (consult with Nursery Manager and school Grounds Manager)
- Photographs of the mature species in its natural environment
- Photos of species of wildlife that depend on this plant for its survival.

***Discuss with Nursery Manager the expectations of the time it takes to germinate or strike a cutting of your particular species against consideration of the duration of the 10 week Science Unit – Good to Grow**

[Contact list for Community Native Nurseries in the Sunshine Coast](#)