

Our “Steppables”



The low, green steppable ground cover that you see in both front and back gardens has been a great success. In the early years we used mulch or forest litter etc. to protect the plants and to mark pathways. However, that gave the garden too many dry, brown areas for our taste.

The steppables are all natives; dichondras, native violets, pratia and Babies' Tears (we classify the Golden Creeping Jenny growing in and near the bottom pond as a “damp conditions plant” rather than a steppable: the *Nierembergia Repens* in the top, back corner – perhaps with white flowers - is on trial). Their greens and various flowers now unify our garden with an almost lush, flower meadow underlay that is wholly Australian. On the reverse page are some of the nursery tags for our steppables. We acquired the plants as tube stock from several stores including Bunnings, Magnet Mart and Cool Country Natives in Pialligo (first on the left when you turn in).





Our steppables have not been completely plain sailing. They can be invasive/aggressive/feral, particularly the violets. New plantings of other types of plants might need a protective ring of mulch to stop the steppables smothering them. They do not completely suppress weeds – what does? And they need water: a patch that shows signs of failing often means that a tree root is stealing the water.

By the way, we have seen both “steppable” and “stepable” spelling used for these plants. “Stepable” just looks ugly!