

HORT90003 Plants and the Urban Environment

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2012, Burnley This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, Burnley - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 48 hours comprising lectures, practical classes and field trips Total Time Commitment: 120 hours
Prerequisites:	None
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements for this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
Coordinator:	Dr Nicholas Williams
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Subject Overview:	This subject explores the relationship between the urban environment and the plants that grow in urban landscapes. It examines how urbanisation alters the physical and climatic environment of cities and the influence of these changes on urban vegetation and the ecosystem services they provide. Topics include: the origin, ecology and characteristics of remnant, spontaneous and designed vegetation in cities, the effects of urbanisation on climate, air, water and soils and the response of plants and animals to them to these changes, and the use of plants in living roofs and walls and water-sensitive urban design.
Objectives:	Students will be able to critically evaluate urban vegetation and understand why different urban plant communities grow where they do, the types of species that comprise them, the ecological processes maintaining or threatening their persistence and the ecosystem services they provide.
Assessment:	A 120 minute final examination 50% (end of semester), a practical report equivalent to 2000 words 20% (due during semester) and an assignment of 3000 words 30% (due during semester).
Prescribed Texts:	A reading pack will be prepared for use in the subject.
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees

Generic Skills:	At the conclusion of the subject students should be able to demonstrate their understanding of the urban environment, its effect on plant performance and how vegetation can be used to ameliorate some of the effects of urbanisation.
Related Course(s):	Graduate Diploma in Urban Horticulture Master of Urban Horticulture
Related Majors/Minors/ Specialisations:	Climate Change Environmental Science Environmental Science Sustainable Cities, Sustainable Regions