

Larrakia people welcome you
to the garden:

**“Nigirri mungan-gi
maanma
matboerrma”**

*“Come, we sit down
and talk about the
language for plants”*

Traditional Plant Use

Aboriginal people have an intimate knowledge of plants in the Top End. Plants are sources of food, medicines and materials for making tools and equipment. In this garden, Aboriginal language names are recorded for plants from just some of the many Top End languages.



Thank you to...

The staff of Greening Australia whose passion for native plants created the vision for the garden.

Larrakia people and other Aboriginal groups for sharing their knowledge of native plants and language.

Greening Australia and NT LanDesign for making the garden happen.


Greening Australia


Darwin
International Airport

Another environmental initiative of the Airport Development Group

www.darwinairport.com.au

Welcome to
**Matboerrma
Garden**
*at Darwin
International
Airport*

A great place to relax, rest
and stretch your legs

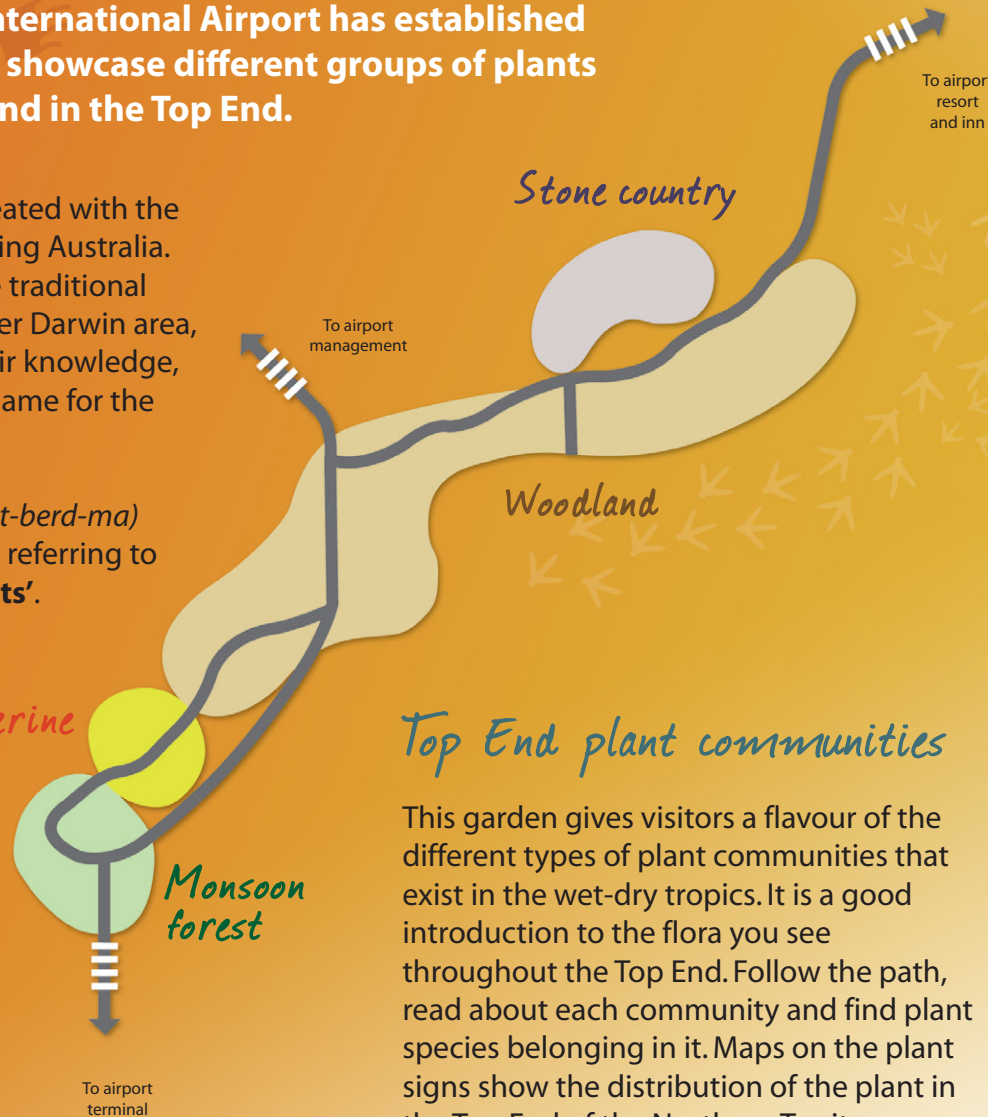


Matboerrma Garden

The Darwin International Airport has established this garden to showcase different groups of plants commonly found in the Top End.

The garden was created with the assistance of Greening Australia. Larrakia people, the traditional owners of the greater Darwin area, kindly provided their knowledge, perspective and a name for the garden.

Matboerrma (*mat-berd-ma*) is a Larrakia word referring to a 'group of plants'.



Top End plant communities

This garden gives visitors a flavour of the different types of plant communities that exist in the wet-dry tropics. It is a good introduction to the flora you see throughout the Top End. Follow the path, read about each community and find plant species belonging in it. Maps on the plant signs show the distribution of the plant in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

Stone country

Many plants and animals living in the harsh and hot stone country of the Top End are found nowhere else in the world. The stone protects plants from fire, resulting in the unique selection of plants.



Woodland

The most abundant habitat in the Top End, woodland has an overstorey dominated by eucalypts, and a grassy understorey that also contains shrubs and cycads. Limited water and high daytime temperatures mean many woodland animals are nocturnal. Fire is a dominant landscaping force in the woodland and many plants are adapted to living with fire.



Riverine

The narrow belt of plants lining Top End rivers and streams is called riverine vegetation. Some species only occur here, while others also live in monsoon forests. Riverine areas provide important refuges for many animals.



Monsoon forest

Monsoon forests are dark green in appearance and located in fire protected areas. They have a closed canopy of tangled branches and vines which shades the forest floor. Wet monsoon forests occur near permanent water like springs and rivers, while dry monsoon forests are found along coastal areas and on rocky outcrops.

