ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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J. W. Wrigley M. A. Fagg
Colts Harbour 2012 Canberra 2012
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SELECTED CLIMATIC DATA

Listed below are selected climatic data for some of the cities and towns mentioned in this book. Rainfall figures are expressed as the annual mean. Maximum and minimum temperature figures are those expected on at least four days in the hottest and coldest months. It should be noted that when we discuss the 'humid east coast' in the body of the book, we refer to the coastal area from Sydney north.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Rainfall</th>
<th>Max. Temperature</th>
<th>Min. Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td>Dry, drier winters</td>
<td>246mm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atherton</td>
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<td>1246mm</td>
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<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>Wet summers, drier winters</td>
<td>1146mm</td>
<td>32ºC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cairns</td>
<td>Very wet summers, dry winters</td>
<td>2036mm</td>
<td>33ºC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Even, low rainfall</td>
<td>633mm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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Preface to the Sixth Edition

Over the years there have been many changes in our knowledge and attitudes towards native plants. Positive attitudes towards conservation have become more entrenched and much effort has been made to conserve and cultivate rare and threatened native plants, in particular by botanic gardens and dedicated members of the Australian Plants Society. Those species with particular horticultural appeal have been included in this edition and their conservation status noted.

With more than 200,000 copies of Australian Native Plants sold since the first edition was published in 1979, it is encouraging to know that the book has been accepted into so many homes and libraries.

In the past 32 years hundreds of new plants have been introduced to cultivation. Many new species and cultivars have featured in each edition.

This edition is no exception, with many new plants, particularly some fine cultivars, added and a significant increase in the number of colour photographs. The classification of plants has undergone great change in the last few years with new tools available to plant taxonomists allowing names to reflect the evolution of plant species. Countless name changes have been made in order to keep up with this latest research. While this is frustrating to growers, we have gone to some lengths to explain the reasons for the changes in the following section, 'How to Use this Book'.

We have continued the use of planting zone codes which were introduced in the fifth edition. These are colour-coded and feature in every plant entry of the book, tying in with those shown on the map on page 9. These planting-zone codes assist gardeners to choose the right plant for the right place, thereby preventing many disappointments. For example, Western Australia and much of southern Australia experience a winter rainfall, whereas the east coast and the tropics have their rain in summer producing high humidity. Summer rainfall allows many fungus diseases to thrive and plants from winter rainfall districts will often fall victim to these problems.

Technical terms have been avoided where the meaning can be expressed clearly in lay terms. Where technical terms are used, they are explained in the Glossary on page 673.

Scientific names for plants are used throughout but common names are used where they genuinely reflect common usage.

With 15 years as Curator of the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra and more than 30 years working as a consultant and native plant grower near Coffs Harbour
You can use this book to help you plan your garden and select suitable native plants for your area. Chapters 1–8 provide basic information on selecting, propagating and caring for native plants. The remaining chapters form the bulk of the book and comprise more than 3500 plant entries in all.

While this book is not written as an identification guide, when used in association with full botanical keys in more technical State and National Floras and the growing number of interactive CDs and online keys, the descriptions, colour plates and drawings will assist the reader to affirm an identification.

**Descriptions**

Each entry provides a description of the plant as well as details about how to propagate and cultivate it, the family to which it belongs and its natural distribution. The size given in plant descriptions is only a guide as these vary with location, culture and soil type. It is worth noting that sizes quoted on nursery labels frequently underestimate the ultimate size of trees and shrubs.

**Horticultural groupings**

Plant entries are organised under chapter headings such as Ground Covers, Rockery Plants and Shrubs but, because many plants vary over their range, some forms listed under Rockery Plants, for example, could be used as ground covers and even grow into shrubs. So if you have a plant name, either common or scientific, but are uncertain about its form, it is always best to look it up in the Index.

**Map and zones**

The map of Australia on page 9 is divided into different planting zones based on temperature range, rainfall and the time of the year when rain may be expected.

Appropriate zones are given with each plant entry, just beneath the name, thereby indicating where certain species should grow best. The zones are not exclusive and species may also thrive in other districts where appropriate conditions exist because of favourable microclimates or aspects.

**Distribution**

Standard State abbreviations are used to indicate a species’ natural occurrence in that State, together with PNG for Papua New Guinea, and NZ for New Zealand. Other localities are spelt out in full.

**Symbols**

The symbols at the end of each description identify some of the important features of the plant. A key to the symbols is shown on page 8 and on the front jacket flap for quick reference. With continued use of the book, the reader will become familiar with these easily recognisable symbols: a bird for bird-attracting plants, a vase of flowers for species suitable as cut flowers, etc.

**Plant Names**

Scientific names for plants are used throughout but we have included some common names as many growers are reluctant to accept scientific names in normal conversation. This is not best practice as the use of common names can lead to confusion. We have, of course, avoided making up common names where none exist.

To assist people in keeping up with scientific name changes, we have included recent earlier names as synonyms, abbreviated as ‘Syn.’ following the plant’s scientific name.

The abbreviation for subspecies may be either subsp. or ssp. We have chosen to use ssp. in order to save space. The abbreviation sp. (species singular) is also used throughout this book, as is spp. (species plural). For example, *Banksia* ssp. refers to a number of *Banksia* species.

Plants that have been bred for cultivation, often by hybridising, or by selecting unusual wild forms, are called ‘cultivars’. These plants are given a distinctly different sort of name, in a non-Latin form, enclosed within single quote-marks, following the genus and possibly the species. For example, *Grevillea* ‘Robyn Gordon’ or *Callistemon pallidus* ‘Candle Glow’. We have indicated in the text when these names have been registered with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA).

In each chapter, the first entry for a genus also shows the plant family to which it belongs. Where the family has changed in recent years, the older more familiar family is given in brackets.

**Genus and family name changes**

Readers familiar with Australian plants and earlier editions of this book will notice many plant name changes and familiar plants placed in different families. Some well-known genera such as *Dryandra* have disappeared, as have iconic Australian families such as Epacridaceae.

There have always been name changes in botany, but to many people the current rate
of change is overwhelming. But like any branch of science, new knowledge results in new concepts, and we must always keep in mind that the classification of plants into families, genera and species are just concepts to help us cope with the diversity of nature.

Traditionally botanists based their classification on the features they could see for each plant, and relied on their broad knowledge to decide which features were important in making that judgement. This was not a field of science that could readily be tested by numbers and statistics.

In recent years new methods have been developed to analyse the wealth of different characters that make one plant different to another, decide which are the more important, and apply statistics to the decision-making process. This has been made possible by the power of computers to analyse large amounts of data, and by the extra ‘characters’ we can now find from the plant’s DNA.

These tools also allow us to make our classification reflect evolution—the most important aspect of this is the idea that all the plants classified into one taxonomic group, a genus for example, should have evolved from one common ancestor.

One technique—known as ‘cladistics’—produces what looks like a ‘family tree’, grouping organisms together by the proportion of characters they have in common. Branches on this tree trace back to their common ancestor.

Taking the Banksia-Dryandra situation as an example, the first illustration [left] shows our old concept for the relationship between Banksia and Dryandra, with each ‘twig’ on the family tree representing a species.

The second illustration [left, below] shows our new understanding of the relationship between Banksia and Dryandra based on scientific analysis of their characters.

If our genus name is to be based on the concept of all plants in the genus having a single common ancestor, then the dryandras can either become part of a broader Banksia genus, or the old Banksia genus must be split up into several different genera each reflecting a level of unique ancestry equivalent to Dryandra.

This is where we still rely on the judgement of a botanist, and not all botanists will make the same judgement. What is not really in dispute is that the old concept is not valid.

In the case of Banksia-Dryandra, the botanists decided to ‘sink’ Dryandra into a broader concept of Banksia.

But a similar situation arose earlier with the eucalypts. Here we had the option of sinking Angophora into a broader concept of Eucalyptus, or accepting three genera, Angophora, Corymbia and Eucalyptus. Most botanists chose the latter option.

Taking this concept to the broader level of defining a family, the same arguments apply. Our familiar family Epacridaceae was found to be nested within the much more diverse family Ericaceae, which includes the Scottish heather and the tropical rhododendrons. If we recognised Epacridaceae as being a distinct family with a single common ancestor, then the Ericaceae would have had to be broken up into many families equivalent in status to Epacridaceae.

Since most botanists in the world have accepted the previous broad definition of Ericaceae, the Australian epacrids are now included in this family.
Different botanists may still gain (perhaps undeserved) reputations as ‘splitters’ or ‘lumpers’, but new data analysis tools like cladistics give them more concrete evidence on which to make those decisions.

Having decided on the level of classification, a set of rules, the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* guides botanists in applying names to those units of classification. Application and interpretation of these rules can also result in name changes and debates. This was the case with the dispute over whether the name *Acacia* or *Racosperma* should be used for the Australian wattles, debated over two International Botanical Congresses, in Vienna in 2005 and Melbourne in 2011. The name *Acacia* was eventually retained for the majority of the Australian species.

**Australian Plant Census**

Given that the final decisions, even when we have analytical tools and rules, come down to human judgement, how do we decide which judgement to accept?

Australia is fortunate in one respect in having a reasonably small number of major research herbaria, [only nine], with a good level of cooperation between them. We also have, by world standards, a very good *Australian Plant Name Index* ([APNI](http://www.anbg.gov.au/apni)) documenting every name ever applied to the Australian flora. Visit [www.anbg.gov.au/apni](http://www.anbg.gov.au/apni)

Since 2005 representatives from the Commonwealth and State herbaria have been working through the 175,000 names applied to the Australian flora, one by one, considering whether each is a ‘current’ name by today’s standards. This is a consensus process, aimed at reaching a practical decision while still allowing individual botanists to debate or challenge the science and acknowledging that with more research will come more changes. These deliberations form the basis of the *Australian Plant Census* ([APC](http://www.chah.gov.au/apc)). Visit [www.chah.gov.au/apc](http://www.chah.gov.au/apc)

In some cases the decisions have been quite conservative, agreeing at this stage, for example, to retain the iconic genus *Callistemon* while most research suggests it is nested within the broader genus *Melaleuca* [four Australian herbaria are adopting this change]. Similarly the iconic Australian family Chenopodiaceae is retained while some world researchers have incorporated it within the broader family Amaranthaceae. By the end of the first review of all the APNI names in 2012 the *Australian Plant Census* included about 25,000 species, most with many synonyms. This number includes both native and naturalised species, hybrids, and known species that have not yet been formally described. If subspecies, varieties etc are included, this number increases to about 36,000 taxa.

Unfortunately, when this book went to press, *APC* had not finalised the review of one family, Orchidaceae, as there were still unresolved plant name problems.

With the exception of Orchidaceae, this edition of *Australian Native Plants* has followed the names and families accepted in the *Australian Plant Census* in 2012. Familiar names and families used in the recent past have been listed as synonyms.

Some major name changes in this edition:

**Families**

- Plants once in the familiar milk-weed family Asclepiadaceae, are now in Apocynaceae.
- Plants like baobabs, once in the family Bombacaceae, and their relatives in Sterculiaceae, are now grouped together in Malvaceae.
- The cassia-like plants once in Caesalpiniaeae, and the wattlle-like plants once in Mimosaceae are grouped with the pea-flowers in Fabaceae.
- Plants once in the unique Australian family Epacridaceae are now in the world-wide family Ericaceae.
- Many plants once in the ‘catch-all’ family Euphorbiaceae have been assigned to different families.
- Plants once in another ‘catch-all’ family, Scrophulariaceae, have been assigned to a range of different families.
- Another familiar Australian family, Myoporaceae, has gone, now being included in Scrophulariaceae.
- The problematic lilly-like plants have been reallocated to a new range of families.

**Genera**

- The eucalypts are placed in three genera, *Angophora*, *Corymbia* and *Eucalyptus*.
- The lilly-pillies, formerly in the genera *Eugenia*, *Acmena*, *Acmenosperma*, *Anetholea*, *Cleistocalyx* and *Waterhousea* are now included in the one genus *Syzygium*.
- In 1997 many species of *Baeckea* were transferred to the genus *Babingtonia*, however in 2007 after molecular examination of the group, it was resolved that some *Babingtonia* would be further split into the genera *Triplarina*, *Sannantha*, *Kardomia* and *Harmogia*.
- Many species of the popular Western Australian genus *Agonis* have been transferred to the new genera *Taxandria* and *Paragonis*.
- The genus *Dryandra* has gone, being incorporated into a broader concept of *Banksia*.
- *Parahebe* and *Derwentia* are now included in the genus *Veronica* which has been transferred to the family Plantaginaceae.
- Many other genera will now be found in unfamiliar families, for example the genus *Clerodendrum*, has been moved from Verbenaceae to be part of the mint family Lamiaceae.


CHAPTER 1

WHY NATIVE PLANTS?

Since the end of the 1950s the popularity of Australian native plants has steadily increased, and in recent years has accelerated to a boom. There are, perhaps, many reasons and combinations of circumstances which have brought this about.

All over the world, people are becoming more aware of their natural heritage. Thinking people in most countries, Eastern and Western, have realised the dangers that population pressures have placed on the environment. As a result, national parks organisations and similar bodies have increased their memberships dramatically, and have become significant pressure groups in persuading governments to pay heed to the need to conserve fast-diminishing natural resources.

This interest in one’s surroundings, coupled with the ease with which one may move around the countryside, has made Australians more aware of the diverse range of plants and animals that can be seen, often not far from their own back door.

Awareness led to experimentation with growing native plants, many species of which had never previously been brought into cultivation. Native plants had built up a reputation for being difficult to grow, perhaps due to early attempts at transplanting plants from the bush.

I can remember that when I was a child my father, an experienced gardener with exotic plants, attempted to transplant native plants from the Sydney sandstone, with almost total failure.

THE RISE TO POPULARITY

Experimentation, and the developing questioning attitudes of interested gardeners, led to the formation of the Society for Growing Australian Plants in Melbourne in the mid-1950s. This society, now generally known as the Australian Plants Society, blossomed and spread to all States, and is presently the largest horticultural society in Australia.

It played a most important role in popularising native plants as garden subjects and its journal, *Australian Plants*, as well as its State newsletters became forums where people with some skills in growing native plants could share their knowledge with others.

Another important development, which made people mindful of the fact that native plants did have horticultural potential, was the establishment of public gardens in several major cities.

Of particular note are:

- King’s Park and Botanic Garden, Perth, WA, which concentrates on growing the flora of Western Australia.
- Maranoa Gardens, managed by the Council of the City of Camberwell, Melbourne, Vic.
- Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council, St Ives, Sydney, NSW.
- Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT.
- Mt Annan Botanic Garden, [now The Australian Botanic Garden] near Campbelltown, NSW.
- Stony Range Flora Reserve, Dee Why, Sydney, NSW.
- Burrendong Arboretum, near Wellington, NSW.
- Waite Agricultural Research Institute Arboretum of the University of Adelaide, SA, which has tree plantings dating from 1928.
- Olive Pink Botanic Garden, Alice Springs, NT.
- The North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, Coffs Harbour, NSW.
- Myall Park Botanic Garden, Glenmorgan, Qld.
- Emerald Botanic Gardens, Emerald, Qld.
- Sunraysia Oasis Botanic Gardens, Buronga, NSW, near Mildura, Vic.
- Tamworth Botanic Gardens, Tamworth, NSW.
- Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs, NT.
- Desert Park Botanic Gardens, Port Augusta, SA.
- Australian Botanic Garden (now The Australian National Botanic Gardens) near Canberra, ACT.
- Desert Park Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs, NT.
- Sunraysia Oasis Botanic Gardens, Buronga, NSW, near Mildura, Vic.
- Tamworth Botanic Gardens, Tamworth, NSW.
- Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs, NT.

As these gardens became well known, so public demand for supplies of native plants gradually grew. Pioneering nurseriesmen, such as the late George Aldhofer, of Nindethana Nursery, Dripstone, NSW, the late Percy and Olive Parry of Floralandes, Gosford, NSW, and Boddy’s Eastern Park Nursery, Victoria, were joined by others specialising in native plants. Of this younger brigade, Rodger Elliot, in establishing Australflora Nursery in the Dandenongs, Victoria, played a major role in making a great variety of natives available to the public. In Queensland the wonderful variety of rainforest plants has been popularised, first by Alex and Barbara Hansa of Fairhill Nurseries, Yandina, and by Ann and Peter Radke of Yuruga Nursery, Walkamin, who have brought many new species into the market.

Not only are native species being brought into cultivation, but breeders are hybridising these species to produce some stunning cultivars which accentuate those traits that gardeners find attractive. Pioneers in this field include Dave Gordon with his early *Grevillea* hybrids, Ramm Botanicals who have produced an enormous range of Kangaroo Paw hybrids and more recently Peter Ollrensaw with a range of *Leptospermum*, *Grevillea* and *Correa* hybrids.

The larger general nursery companies are slowly extending their range of native plants, but it is a slow process and it is likely the specialist native plant nursery will always be with us. Robert Brown, the famous Scottish botanist of the early nineteenth century, wrote of the Australian vegetation: "There is an endless variety of genera and species of shrub but the general impression is dismal." We have come a long way in the years since Robert Brown examined our flora for the first time. Australians have grown to appreciate their flora for its beauty, its colour and its uniqueness of form.

Let us ensure that the whole world becomes familiar with this flora, which in future years will give Australia an important place in world horticulture.


IN SUPPORT OF NATIVE PLANTS

Australian horticulture grew up with a strong background of European influence. The early settlers brought with them the plants with which they were familiar, and the native plants were strange and did nothing to relieve them of their homesickness. Only the early botanists realised their uniqueness, and records show that in the latter part of the nineteenth century there were hundreds of Australian species in cultivation in England. In the new country, native species were cleared and burnt to make way for crops, cattle and buildings, while many European species thrived and were persisted with.

It is apparent now, however, that natives often have a number of advantages over these old favourites. It should be pointed out most emphatically at this stage that I am not a purist in their environment. Natural selection ensures that a plant is adapted to suit that environment. Thus, the use of a local species promises a plant well suited to the conditions it
will experience. Also, with the growing and commendable tendency to retain as much of the local vegetation as possible when developing an urban landscape, it is usually found that native trees and shrubs offer a more sympathetic addition than the more contrasting exotics.

It has been argued that natives are more drought resistant than exotics and this is obviously a point in their favour. Care should be taken, however, as the argument is false if one generalises. If drought resistance is the property required, through correct selection appropriate native plant species can be chosen for the purpose.

A monotonous dull greens and small-leaved shrubs’ has been a criticism levelled at the Australian bush by many a European visitor. It could be argued that at least it is dull green throughout the year and not without leaves for half of it, as are the deciduous forests of the Northern Hemisphere, but no doubt one’s personal opinion is coloured by fond memories of childhood and the environment in which one has grown up.

It should be pointed out, though, that all is not ‘dull green and small-leaved’ and in private gardens or urban landscapes an opportunity exists to use a wide range of colours and textures.

There are the silvery greys of wattles and saltbushes, the bright, shiny greens of rainforest trees, the reddish new growth or winter colour of many Myrtaceae plants or Allocasuarina. The coarse texture of large-leaved Banksia species can add variety.

The many overseas tourists who now visit Australia rightfully expect to see Australian, and I believe there is a moral obligation for councils and governments to ensure that a significant proportion of well-selected native plants is used in street plantings and parks.

Some species of native plants are threatened with extinction for one reason or another. These species usually occur in a very restricted area. Some are known from road verges only. Others are found only on privately owned land. The precarious future of such species should be of concern and efforts should be made to bring them into cultivation, where at least their continued existence will be secure even if their environment is destroyed.

This is obviously a function of botanic gardens, and the establishment of regional botanic gardens in various climatic and soil-type areas throughout Australia should improve this situation.

Significant progress has been made with the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden at Coffs Harbour, NSW, and the regional arid botanic gardens near Mildura and Port Augusta, SA. A new botanic garden at Tamworth on the north-west slopes of New South Wales caters for rare and endangered plants of the region and the northern tablelands. Emerald in central Queensland has established an excellent botanic garden displaying the different vegetation types known in the region. There are many other examples. Local councils and private residents should support these projects and encourage their establishment in other areas.

A garden with a large number of Australian plants attracts native birds. Many people would consider this reason enough on its own to grow natives. The Nursery and Garden Industry of Australia has introduced the promotional programme ‘Flora for Fauna’, under which plants are labelled as bird or butterfly attracting, to encourage suitable plantings.

For birds to be retained in a garden, food, shelter and suitable nesting sites must be provided. Food, in the form of nectar produced by flowering shrubs and trees, is a natural by-product of the native garden, and many shrubs and trees produce fruits and seeds which also attract birds.

Careful plant selection will provide suitable flowers for birds for most of the year. Plants with these properties are designated accordingly in the species descriptions, but in general terms the genera Grevillea, Banksia, Callistemon, Correa, Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Melaleuca, and various Syzygium species, are worthy of consideration as bird attractors.

People may have many reasons for growing native plants. They may like to have a garden that is easy to maintain and that attracts birds, they may have an interest in conservation, or they may simply be seeking a challenge to their horticultural skills. Whatever the reasons, they will obtain enjoyment, relaxation and satisfaction. It is hoped the following pages will provide ideas and information that make the cultivation of native plants more enjoyable and satisfying.
**Lechenaultia linarioides**

Yellow Lechenaultia

 Dense, tangled shrub to 1m high by 1m across, often suckering. Linear leaves are 8–12mm long. Flowers are creamy yellow and about 1cm diameter (see photo page 87). Distribution: Vic, SA, WA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings, without mist.

CULTIVATION Grows in most soils in full sun or part shade. Resistant to salt spray. ☑️

**Lechenaultia longiloba**

Semi-prostrate, suckering plant, occasionally reaching 30cm high. Fleshy linear leaves are mainly 1–2cm long. Dull red and yellowish flowers to 3.5cm long are seen in late winter and spring. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION Difficult to maintain. ☑️

**Lechenaultia macrantha**

Cushion bush

Prostrate plant forming neat circles 30cm across. Linear succulent leaves are 2.5–4.5cm long. Large cream and red flowers are beautifully displayed around perimeter of plant. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION This species has flourished in Sydney on deep sand for periods of up to two years. Outstanding plant, but very difficult to maintain. ☑️

**Lechenaultia superba**

Barrels Lechenaultia

Erect plant to 70cm high. The fleshy, linear leaves are 1–2cm long. The orange-red flowers are seen in spring. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION Difficult to maintain. ☑️

**Lechenaultia tubiflora**

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION Not as difficult as others to maintain but three years seems the maximum life. ☑️

**Lepidotrichos squamatus**

ASTERACEAE

Scaly Buttons

Spreading, semi-prostrate plant to 40cm across. Oblong to narrow-oblanceolate leaves are up to 3cm long. Small, yellow, button-like flower heads on long slender stalks appear in spring and summer. Distribution: SA, Vic, NSW, ACT, Tas.

PROPAGATION From seed, cuttings, or by division.

CULTIVATION Needs sunny position and grows in most soils. ☑️

**Leucoophyta brownii**

(Syn. Calocephalus brownii)

ASTERACEAE

Cushion Bush

Compact, rounded silvery grey shrub to 1m high by 1m across. Tiny, grey, scale-like leaves are pressed against the stems.

**Libertia paniculata**

IRIDACEAE

Tufted perennial with grass-like leaves to 50cm long. Bears white flowers, 25mm diameter, on slender, branching stems to 40cm in spring. Distribution: Vic, NSW, Qld.

PROPAGATION By division or seed.

CULTIVATION Grows in most soils but prefers some shade and ample moisture. *L. pulchella* has shorter leaves to 1cm but the flower stem extends the leaves and is well displayed. ☑️

**Linum marginale**

LINACEAE

Native Flax

Erect, slender plant to 60cm. Linear to narrow-elliptical leaves are 5–20mm long and often to lanceolate leaves to 1.5cm. Small, profuse, white or pale pink bell-like flowers to 5mm long in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings, with difficulty.

CULTIVATION Not often seen in cultivation. Flowers for a long period. Prefers good drainage and some shade. ☑️

**Lobelia membranacea**

CAMPANULACEAE (LOBELIACEAE)

Daunt prostrate plant spreading to 50cm across. Tiny ovate leaves to 5mm long. Bears pale blue flowers for much of the year.

PROPAGATION From seed, cuttings, with or by division.

CULTIVATION Hardy; thrives in most soils in full sun or part shade. Suspected of being toxic to stock. ☑️

**Lobelia strigosa**

ERICACEAE (PACIFIRIDACEAE)

Peach Heath

Round shrub to 50cm high by 50cm across. Prickly, linear bluish. Bears open bright blue flowers, 1.5–2cm diameter, on branching stems. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Tas.

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by division.

CULTIVATION Hardy; thrives in most soils in full sun or part shade. ☑️

**Lissanthe strigosa**

Prostrate plant spreading to 80cm and rooting as it spreads. Tiny round leaves are up to 1.5cm

**Lobelia membranacea**

Distribution: Qld.

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by division.

CULTIVATION Enjoys damp conditions. Will seed itself in the garden and may become invasive. Frost hardy. ☑️

**Lobelia quadrangularis**

Prostrate plant spreading to 80cm and rooting as it spreads. Tiny round leaves are up to 1.5cm
Lobelia trigonocaulis

Trailing plant with weak stems to 50cm long. Heart-shaped leaves, 1–4cm long, are borne on long petioles. Blue or rarely white flowers with prominent 3-lobed lip on erect stems to 10cm.

Distribution: Qld, NSW.

Propagation: Division or from seed.

Cultivation: Requires well-drained soil and full sun.

Lomandra banksii

Strange branching plant to 1m with narrow strap-like leaves to 30cm spreading from ascending branches. Leaf bases are retained on old growth. Flowers are cream; not showy. Distribution: Qld.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Needs well-drained soil and full sun.

Lomandra confertifolia

Tufted plant with crowded, bright green, linear leaves, 8–70cm long. Flowers are often hidden in the foliage. Five subspecies are recognised. Distribution: NSW, Qld, Vic.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Shorter leaf forms make handsome little foliage plants. A number of cultivars are available in nurseries. L. c. 'Little Coral' is a dwarf form with fine leaves to 30cm. L. c. ssp. rubiginosus is taller the leaves reaching up to 50cm, several others are available including 'Seascape', 'Frosty Tips', 'Silver Grace' and 'Crackerjack'. Another dwarf cultivar of L. c. ssp. pallida is sold as 'Little Pal'. All are very hardy.

Lomandra hystrix

Large tufted plant with arching, bright green leaves to 1.3m long. Branching flower spikes are usually slightly shorter. The primary branches of the flower are mainly in fours, a conspicuous difference from L. longifolia with which it is often confused. Flowers are seen in early summer. Distribution: Qld, NSW.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Hardy, should be used more frequently. Foliage is attractive. Excellent soil binder for creek banks, accepting some inundation. May be grown in heavy shade or full sun but requires ample moisture. Leaves will arch over rocks or hide ugly concrete edges of water features. Makes good indoor specimen. It is sometimes sold as L. longifolia but does not accept conditions as dry as that species does.

Lomandra leucocephala

Variable species forming tussocks 30–70cm high. Narrow strap-like leaves are relatively stiff. Bears crowded, spiny flower spikes held on flattened stems. On warm summer days flowers are strongly perfumed. Distribution: SA, Tas, Vic, NSW, ACT, Qld.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Grows in almost any soil and aspect. Hardy, often used in median strips. A cultivar L. l. ‘Tanaka’ has very fine leaves.

Lomandra longifolia

Tufted plant with narrow grass-like leaves to 50cm. Tight clusters of woolly white flowers, to 6cm long, surround stem at irregular intervals. Flowers mostly in winter and spring. Distribution: all mainland States.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Prefers reasonable drainage and full sun.

Lomandra leucocephala ssp. robusta

Tiny plant with trailing stems to 40cm. Short, twisted leaves, 2–4cm long, are arranged in two rows on opposite sides of stems. Flowers are insignificant. Distribution: NSW, Qld.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Needs well-drained, shaded position. Charming foliage plant, will trail over rocks.

Lomandra obliqua

Purple Mat Rush

Tussock-forming plant with narrow dark green leaves to 60cm. The dark purple flowers are borne in well-spaced whorls on a stem to 1m high in spring. Distribution: WA.

Propagation: From seed or by division.

Cultivation: Requires well-drained position in full sun or part shade. Flowers are an unusual colour for the genus.

Lomandra purpurea

Variable species forming tussocks 30–70cm high. Narrow strap-like leaves are relatively stiff. Bears crowded, spiny flower spikes held on flattened stems. On warm summer days flowers are strongly perfumed. Distribution: SA, Tas, Vic, NSW, ACT, Qld.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Grows in almost any soil and aspect. Hardy, often used in median strips. A cultivar L. l. ‘Tanaka’ has very fine leaves.

Lomandra leucocephala ssp. robusta

Tiny plant with trailing stems to 40cm. Short, twisted leaves, 2–4cm long, are arranged in two rows on opposite sides of stems. Flowers are insignificant. Distribution: NSW, Qld.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Needs well-drained, shaded position. Charming foliage plant, will trail over rocks.

Lomandra obliqua

Purple Mat Rush

Tussock-forming plant with narrow dark green leaves to 60cm. The dark purple flowers are borne in well-spaced whorls on a stem to 1m high in spring. Distribution: WA.

Propagation: From seed or by division.

Cultivation: Requires well-drained position in full sun or part shade. Flowers are an unusual colour for the genus.

Lomandra purpurea

Variable species forming tussocks 30–70cm high. Narrow strap-like leaves are relatively stiff. Bears crowded, spiny flower spikes held on flattened stems. On warm summer days flowers are strongly perfumed. Distribution: SA, Tas, Vic, NSW, ACT, Qld.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Grows in almost any soil and aspect. Hardy, often used in median strips. A cultivar L. l. ‘Tanaka’ has very fine leaves.

Lomandra obliqua

Purple Mat Rush

Tussock-forming plant with narrow dark green leaves to 60cm. The dark purple flowers are borne in well-spaced whorls on a stem to 1m high in spring. Distribution: WA.

Propagation: From seed or by division.

Cultivation: Requires well-drained position in full sun or part shade. Flowers are an unusual colour for the genus.

Lomandra purpurea

Variable species forming tussocks 30–70cm high. Narrow strap-like leaves are relatively stiff. Bears crowded, spiny flower spikes held on flattened stems. On warm summer days flowers are strongly perfumed. Distribution: SA, Tas, Vic, NSW, ACT, Qld.

Propagation: From seed.

Cultivation: Grows in almost any soil and aspect. Hardy, often used in median strips. A cultivar L. l. ‘Tanaka’ has very fine leaves.
**Macrozamia**

**ZAMIACEAE**

**Burrawang**

The genus *Macrozamia* is part of the ancient group of plants known as cycads. Cycads occur throughout the world but *Macrozamia* is endemic to Australia. All 41 species make attractive rookery feature plants, with their dark green palm-like leaves up to 1–2m long arching outwards from a central trunk, which in some species may be underground. They are slow growing, very old specimens of some species with trunks 1–2m high can be seen in the field. All respond to generous applications of a general fertiliser.

M. johnsonii spp. do not produce flowers, having reproductive organs known as cones. Male and female cones are borne on separate plants and somewhat resemble pineapples in shape and size. The female cones are larger. The large seeds they produce may be red or yellow when ripe, and germinate readily. Seeds have a high starch content and were eaten by the Aborigines after being vigorously washed to remove toxic compounds known to cause violent vomiting. They are also toxic to stock, which has resulted in the genus’s ruthless destruction in Queensland.

Most species have been extinctuated but only a few of the better known are mentioned here.

**Macrozamia communis**

**Burrawang**

This species does not generally develop a tall trunk. Pinnate leaves may be 1–2m long with stem 1–2m high. Broadly ovate, lobed leaves are up to 20cm long. Flowers, 6cm diameter and borne in clusters in leaf axils, appear in spring and summer. Colour varies from white to lilac. Distribution: all States.

**Propagation** From seed.

**Cultivation** Needs sunny, warm position, grows in most soils. Useful background plant but must be replaced in 2–3 years.

**Macrozamia riedlei**

Large cycad with trunk reaching 2m. Pinnate fronds frequently reach 2m and more on old specimens. Distribution: WA.

**Propagation** From seed.

**Cultivation** Needs good drainage and full sun or part shade. Good container plant.

**Macrozamia spiralis**

Trunkless species with leaves to 1m long. Leaves are twisted spirally, with 2–12 leaves in the crown. Distribution: NSW.

**Propagation** From seed.

**Cultivation** Needs good drainage and full sun or part shade. Good container plant.

**Malva preissiana**

(Syn. Lavatera plebeia) MALVACEAE

**Australian Hollyhock**

**Propagation** From seed.

**Cultivation** Needs sunny, warm position; grows in most soils. Excellent specimen plant. Needs good drainage. From cuttings.

**Melaleuca incana**

*C. Velvet Cushion’*

(Syn. M. ‘Velvet Cushion’)

**ASTERACEAE**

**Dwarf form of** *M. incana* (refer page 424) making a compact shrub to about 60cm high by 60cm across. Hairy grey leaves are borne on small, pendulous branches. Cream brushes are not borne as prolifically as in the taller forms.

**Propagation** Must be from cuttings.

**Cultivation** Does not perform well on the humid east coast; probably more suited to winter rainfall areas. Good drainage essential. A prostrate, more spreading form of *M. incana* is also in cultivation.

**Melaleuca suaveolens**

**APOCYNACEAE**

**Surf Mint**

**LAMIACEAE**

**Native Mint**

Suckering plant with erect stems to 40cm. Lanceolate leaves are 4–5cm long. Highly aromatic foliage. Flowers, mauve or more rarely white, are borne in upper leaf axils. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic.

**Propagation** From cuttings or by division.

**Cultivation** Tolerant of most soils but needs ample watering.

**Microseris lanceolata**

**ASTRACEAE**

**Yam Daisy**

Perennial herb with tuberous roots and slender, lanceolate radical leaves, 4–8cm long. Bright yellow flower heads, 3cm diameter, are held on stems 20–40cm, rather like a large dandelion. Distribution: temperate Australia.

**Propagation** From seed.

**Cultivation** Most situations suitable. The tuberous rootstock was an important food for the Aborigines.

**Microstrobus fitzgeraldii**

**PODOCARPACEAE**

**Dwarf Mountain Pine**

Rare conifer, forming rounded bush less than 60cm with pendulous branchlets. Slightly incurved, lanceolate grey-green leaves are about 3mm long.

Distribution: Blue Mountains, NSW.

**Propagation** From cuttings.

**Cultivation** Needs well-shaded area with good drainage, but ample watering. Handsome container plant.

**Conservation Status** Endangered.
**Milligania densiflora**

ASTELIACEAE

Tufted plant with thick, tapered leaves to 30cm long. Branching stems to 30cm of open white flowers to 2cm diameter occur in spring. Distribution: all mainland States.

**Minuria leptophylla**

Small cushion-shaped plant, 10cm high by 30–40cm across. Linear leaves to 4cm long. Daisy-like flowers, 2cm diameter, white to lilac blue, cover the plant for a large part of the year. Distribution: all mainland States.

**Mirbelia rubiifolia**

(Syn. *M. reiticiata*)

Perennial plant with glabrous, linear to ob lanceolate leaves to 5cm long on erect stems to 50cm long. White daisy-like flowers, 1cm diameter, are well displayed in late winter and spring. Distribution: alpine areas of Tas.

**Mitrascme polymorpha**

Dwarf, erect perennial herb, with small, dull green, narrow-ovate leaves, less than 1cm long. Bears small white flowers on long slender pedicels in spring and summer. Distribution: Vic, NSW, Qld, Tas.

**Murdannia graminea**

CONVOLVULACEAE

Potato Vine

Annual or perennial twining plant or ground cover with heart-shaped leaves to 10cm. White daisy-like flowers to 6cm long. Almost round sepals, 3cm long in fruit, dry to form a papery ‘flower’ with black pea-sized seeds in the centre. Distribution: WA, NT, Qld, NSW.

**Orthrosanthus laxus**

IRIDACEAE

Morning Iris

Iris-like plant with flat leaves to 40cm long. Bears spikes of light blue flowers, 3cm in diameter,
Most species form clumps of strap-like leaves about 30cm high. As most can be handled in the same way, exceptions are mentioned under the relevant species. Propagation is easy from seed, which is usually set in profusion. All require full sun to give maximum flowering performance and most appreciate good drainage. Flowering is in spring and summer.

**Patersonia drummondii**
- Some hairs at base of twisted leaves. Distribution: WA.
- PRODUCTION: From seed.
- CULTIVATION: As for genus.

**Patersonia fragilis**
(Syn. P. glauca)
- Leaves, 20–60cm long, almost terete with pointed tips. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, Tas.
- PRODUCTION: From seed.
- CULTIVATION: More tolerant of poorly drained soils than most other species.

**Patersonia glabra**
Linear leaves to 30cm long. Flowers slightly paler than most. Distribution: WA.
- PRODUCTION: From seed.
- CULTIVATION: As for genus.

**Patersonia juncea**
Rush-leaved Patersonia
- Densely tufted plant with linear leaves to 22cm long. Flowering stem to 20cm with pale violet flowers about 4.5cm diameter. Distribution: WA.
- PRODUCTION: From seed.
- CULTIVATION: Good drainage important. Hardy in temperate areas.

Generally hairy in appearance. Leaves to 50cm. Flowers usually deep violet. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic, SA.
- PRODUCTION: From seed.
- CULTIVATION: As for genus.

**Patersonia umbrosa**
var. umbrosa
- Very erect plant to 50cm. Distribution: WA.
- PRODUCTION: From seed.
- CULTIVATION: Some shade preferred.

Forms a rounded plant 40cm high by 60cm across with soft pink flowers for an extended period from spring to autumn.
- PRODUCTION: From cuttings.
- CULTIVATION: Hardy plant which will grow in most soils and full sun. Possessing a tuber, it may be cut back after flowering to permit new shoots emerging in spring.

**Pelargonium australi**
Variable plants, most forming rounded bushes, 50cm diameter, some are shorter and more spreading. Ovate to round leaves with 5–7 lobes, length 2–9cm. Flowers are borne in umbels of 4–12 blooms, each about 1.5cm diameter. Colour varies from almost white with purple veining to mauve. Distribution: temperate Australia.
- PRODUCTION: From cuttings or seed. When selecting wild clones, look for good colour and number of flowers.
- CULTIVATION: Likes most soils, full sun.

**Pelargonium rodneyanum**
Australia’s most beautiful Pelargonium. Stemless plant less than 30cm high, developing a thickened tuber. Leaves are ovate to narrow-ovate, 2–5cm long. Bears magenta flowers held on slender peduncles longer than the leaves. Distribution: NSW, Vic, SA.
- PRODUCTION: From seed.
- CULTIVATION: Grows in well-drained soil in sun or half shade. May be useful as parent in hybridisation with exotic species.

**Pennisetum alopecuroides**
The plant sold under this name has been grown for many years despite its potential to become a pest by its prolific seeding. Close examination by taxonomists has now determined that it is an introduced species and should be known as Cenchrus purpurascens.

**Penstachondra pumila**
**ERICACEAE (EPACRICEAE)**
- Prostrate mat plant to 1m across, clinging to rocks and open ground. Elliptical leaves to 6mm long. Small white bearded flowers and bright red berry-like fruits seen simultaneously over spring and summer. Distribution: alpine...
areas of NSW, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings, but subsequent growth is slow. CULTIVATION: Plant in small rockery pocket with peaty soil where watering can be carefully controlled. Never allow to dry out. Needs full sun or half shade. Good container plant.

**Pimelea alpina**

Perennial plant forming overlapping star-like rosettes of thick bright green leaves. Flowers are light brown and insignificant on short stems, 7cm high. Distribution: alpine areas of NSW. PROPAGATION: By division, but seed worth trying after stratification. CULTIVATION: Grow in small rockery pocket in peaty soil where moisture can be carefully controlled. Never allow to dry out. Needs half shade to full sun.

**Plantago muelleri**

Perennial plant forming overlapping star-like rosettes of thick bright green leaves. Flowers are light brown and insignificant on short stems, 7cm high. Distribution: alpine areas of NSW. PROPAGATION: From seed. CULTIVATION: Hardy. Accepts most situations provided ample water available. 

**Poa labillardieri**

Perennial plant forming rosettes of light green, ovate to obovate leaves, 5–20cm long. Bears masses of bright yellow flowers, 2cm in diameter, on stems 40cm long, in spring. Distribution: QLD, NSW, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From seed. CULTIVATION: Useful for full-sun situation. Cut back stems after flowering.

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**Pimelea alpina**

Small, erect heath-like shrub to 50cm with whorls of linear leaves 1–1.5cm long. Bears masses of dark blue, nodding flowers in spring and summer. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. CULTIVATION: Often short lived in cultivation. Needs well-drained soil, partially shaded site. Flowers are well displayed.

**Pimelea humilis**

Low, often spreading shrub to 30cm high by 50cm across, with hairy stems and tendency to produce suckers. Opposite leaves are oblong to lanceolate, to 1.5cm long. White, slightly hairy flower heads are about 3cm diameter and seen in spring. Distribution: NSW, Vic, Tas, SA. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. CULTIVATION: Needs perfect drainage and full sun. **P. longifolia** is very similar and is also in cultivation.

**Plantago muelleri**

Perennial plant forming overlapping star-like rosettes of thick bright green leaves. Flowers are light brown and insignificant on short stems, 7cm high. Distribution: alpine areas of NSW. PROPAGATION: By division, but seed worth trying after stratification. CULTIVATION: Grow in small rockery pocket in peaty soil where moisture can be carefully controlled. Never allow to dry out. Needs half shade to full sun.

**Poa poiformis**

Tussock-forming grass with narrow greyish leaves to 80cm. Bears plume-like heads of flowers on stems to 1m. Distribution: QLD, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA. PROPAGATION: From seed or by division of tussock. CULTIVATION: Very hardy. Accepts most situations provided ample water available.

**Poa poiformis**

Tussock-forming grass with narrow greyish leaves to 80cm. Bears plume-like heads of flowers on stems to 1m. Distribution: QLD, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA. PROPAGATION: From seed or by division of tussock. CULTIVATION: Very hardy. Accepts most situations provided ample water available.

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**Pimelea alpina**

Perennial plant forming rosettes of light green, ovate to obovate leaves, 5–20cm long. Bears masses of bright yellow flowers, 2cm in diameter, on stems 40cm long, in spring. Distribution: QLD, NSW, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. CULTIVATION: Useful for temperate regions. Good drainage essential, in full or part sun.

**Platytheca galioides**

(= *P. verticillata*)

Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From seed. CULTIVATION: From seed. CULTIVATION: Very hardy. Accepts most situations provided ample water available.

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**Pimelea humilis**

Perennial plant forming overlapping star-like rosettes of thick bright green leaves. Flowers are light brown and insignificant on short stems, 7cm high. Distribution: alpine areas of NSW. PROPAGATION: From seed. CULTIVATION: Hardy. Accepts most situations provided ample water available.

**Poa poiformis**

Tussock-forming grass with narrow greyish leaves to 80cm. Bears plume-like heads of flowers on stems to 1m. Distribution: QLD, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA. PROPAGATION: From seed or by division of tussock. CULTIVATION: Very hardy. Accepts most situations provided ample water available.

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**Pimelea treyvaudii**

Erect or sprawling plant to 60cm high by 50cm across. Narrow-elliptical grey-green leaves to 3cm. White flowers are borne in large terminal heads surrounded by creamy green bracts in spring. Distribution: NSW, Vic. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. CULTIVATION: Needs well-drained, sunny situation.

**Plantago muelleri**

Perennial plant forming overlapping star-like rosettes of thick bright green leaves. Flowers are light brown and insignificant on short stems, 7cm high. Distribution: alpine areas of NSW. PROPAGATION: By division, but seed worth trying after stratification. CULTIVATION: Grow in small rockery pocket in peaty soil where moisture can be carefully controlled. Never allow to dry out. Needs half shade to full sun.

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**Pimelea alpina**

Perennial plant forming overlapping star-like rosettes of thick bright green leaves. Flowers are light brown and insignificant on short stems, 7cm high. Distribution: alpine areas of NSW. PROPAGATION: By division, but seed worth trying after stratification. CULTIVATION: Grow in small rockery pocket in peaty soil where moisture can be carefully controlled. Never allow to dry out. Needs half shade to full sun.
**Proiphys amboinensis**

Perennial plant forming rosettes of oblong to narrow-spathulate leaves to 20cm long. Large yellow flower heads, 25cm diameter, on woody, leafy stems 60cm high, appear in spring and summer. Distribution: alpine areas of NSW, Vic, ACT.

**PROPAGATION** From seed. Stratification may increase percentage of germination. From cuttings, the aromatic leaves have a strong fruity fragrance and were used by Aborigines to treat colds. Sunny, well-drained position. Stems of *P. obovatus* ‘Ozlotus Pink Suantra’, bred for cut flower trade, may reach 1m.

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**Pseuderanthemum variabile**

*Baccharis hippatheroides* AMARYLLIDACEAE (LILIACEAE)

Cardwell Lily

Bulbous plant with large, rounded leaves (25cm diameter) on stalk 20cm high. Umbels of large white flowers, 6cm diameter, follow on stems to 50cm in summer.

**PROPAGATION** From divisions, treated as cuttings. Seed may also be worth trying.

**CULTIVATION** Rare; grows well in well-drained, shaded location.

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**Pterocaule sphacelatum**

**Ptilotus manglesii**

Low herb with rosette of obvate leaves to 8cm long. Trailing flower stems with showy, erect, fluffy flowers, pink and white, in cylindrical heads 5cm long by 4cm diameter, appear in spring. Distribution: WA.

**PROPAGATION** Root cuttings

Ptilotus manglesii

Ptilotus nobilis

Registered as *P. exaltatus* and may still be found in nurseries with this name.

**Ptilotus obovatus**

Cotton Bush

Compact shrub 60cm high with rounded, silvery grey, woolly leaves to 4cm long. Small, globular heads, 2cm diameter, of pink and grey flowers on branching stems, seen in spring. Distribution: arid parts of mainland States.

**PROPAGATION** From cuttings. Selections propagated by tissue culture.

**CULTIVATION** Hardy. Most soils satisfactory. Needs sunny position. Stems of *P. obovatus* ‘Ozlotus Pink Suantra’, bred for cut flower trade, may reach 1m.

**Ptilotus pathulus**

Prostrate perennial with rosette of spathulate leaves to 5cm long, from which horizontal stems emerge. They bear vertical, greenish, woolly flower spikes at their end in spring. Flowers seem to appear out of the ground. Distribution: NSW, Vic, Tas, SA, WA.
**Rockery Plants**

**PROPAGATION** From seed; germination usually fairly good. **CULTIVATION** Needs well-drained, sunny position. Interesting novelty plant. ☺

**Pultenaea procumbens**

**FABACEAE**

Low bush 30cm high by 1m across. Small, concave, broadly lanceolate leaves, to 1cm long, are pointed and slightly hairy. Yellow and brown pea-flowers occur in spring. Distribution: NSW, ACT, Vic. **PROPAGATION** From scarified seed. **CULTIVATION** Requires well-drained soil with some shade. ☻

**Pultenaea spinosa**

(Syn. *P. subornata*, *P. cunninghamii*)

Low shrub to 80cm high with hairy branches. Leaves are ovate, to 8mm, pointed and hairy. Yellow and brown pea-flowers appear in upper leaf axils in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic. **PROPAGATION** From scarified seed. **CULTIVATION** Very useful rockery plant. Needs good drainage, full sun or part shade. Frost tolerant. ☻

**Pycnosorus globosus**

**(Syn. *Cassida globosa*)**

**ASTERACEAE**

**BILLY BUTTONS**

Robust perennial with woolly, silvery, linear leaves, to 30cm long. Erect flower stems to 80cm high with globular yellow flower heads to 3cm diameter are seen in spring and summer. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, Tas. **PROPAGATION** From seed. **CULTIVATION** Prefers well-drained, sunny position. Cut back after flowering. Possible value as basket plant. Selected varieties are promoted as *Rostandra* (Heliomerum) ‘Paper Cascade’, ‘Paper Baby’, ‘Paper Star’ and ‘Anna Star’. ☻

**Ranunculus**

**RANUNCULACEAE**

**Common Buttercup**

Hardy perennial with ovate or triangular, divided leaves to 8cm long on a long stalk. Branched flower spikes to 40cm bear golden yellow flowers to 3cm diameter in spring and summer. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA. **PROPAGATION** From seed. **CULTIVATION** Very hardy. Grows in most soils, requires sunny position and ample moisture. ☻

**R. collinus**

**ALPINE BUTTERCUP**

Another alpine species, has also adapted to cultivation. **R. anemonoides**, the large white alpine buttercup, and **R. millani** have not been so successful. ☻

**R. squarrosus**

**RANGES BUTTERCUP**

Tiny shrub sometimes reaching 20cm in height by 30cm across. Small, dark green, linear to linear-oblong leaves. Starry white flowers, about 1cm diameter, occur from spring to autumn. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, SA, Tas. **PROPAGATION** From cuttings, but try seed. **CULTIVATION** Well-drained, partly shaded position most suitable. **R. protonemum** is very similar. ☻

**R. procumbens**

**MARITIMUS BUTTERCUP**

Mat-forming plant with essentially underground stems. ☻

**R. procumbens**

**Babingtonia**

(Syn. *B. virgata*)

**MYRTACEAE**

Small, dense shrub to 1m by 1.5m. Slightly pendentulous tips. Crowded heath-like leaves to 1cm. Small white flowers, 6mm in diameter, are borne in summer. **Note**: *Baeckea virgata* is now considered to occur only in New Caledonia. Australian species previously known by this name were transferred to *Babingtonia* and several new species created. However, after further examination, the eastern species...
were split into several new genera and Babingtonia now only applies to WA species. Thus ‘Howies’ Feathertips’ is now thought to be a depauperate form of Sarnanthia bidwillii.  
**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.  
**CULTIVATION** Very good for large rockery or as specimen plant. Foliage is a feature. Hardy in full sun or part shade. Suitable for rockeries. Flowering is sometimes occurring there, many still un-named. Plants vary from quite large, spreading shrubs, to small undershrubs and perennials, all with the familiar fan-shaped flowers in colours from white to blue and purple, rarely yellow. All are propagated very easily from cuttings and most respond to good drainage and full sun.

### Sarcostemma anchusifolia

Silky Sarcostema  
**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.  
**CULTIVATION** As for genus.  

### Sarcostemma calliptera

Royal Sarcostema  
**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.  
**CULTIVATION** As for genus.

### Sarcostemma crassifolia

Thick-leaved Sarcostema  
**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.  
**CULTIVATION** As for genus.

### Sarcostemma microphylla

Low spreading herb with prostrate or arching branches, up to 30cm high. Leaves are oblong to ovate, 1–5cm long, with coarsely toothed margins.

### Sarcostemma phlebopetala

Velvet Sarcostema  
**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.  
**CULTIVATION** As for genus.

### Sarcostemma viminale

Leafless plant with branching, cylindrical, succulent stems, sometimes reaching 2m high. Flowers are pale green, about 7mm diameter, in umbels along the stems and seen in spring and summer. Distribution: Qld, NSW, SA, WA, NT.  
**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.  
**CULTIVATION** As in sunny, exposed position in rockery, expect it to form a bush 1m or more in diameter with odd stems stretching over rocks. Suitable basket plant. S. viminale ssp. bromaniae is similar but with more twining stems, often seen growing in dry littoral rainforests and other coastal locations as well as inland. 

### Schelhammera undulata

Slender plant rarely exceeding 15cm. Leaves are ovate, sessile, to 5cm long. Flowers are pale pink to mauve, 1.5cm diameter, and last only a short time. Distribution: Vic, NSW.  
**PROPAGATION** By division; seed worth trying.  
**CULTIVATION** Needs soil rich in humus in shady situation. Suitable as container plant. S. multiflora from north Qld is very similar and has also been cultivated.
Senecio pectinatus
ASTERACEAE
Stoloniferous plant with radical, oblong leaves to 5cm, variably lobed. Bears single yellow daisy flowers to 2.5cm diameter on stems to 20cm high in summer. Distribution: alpine areas of NSW, Vic, Tas.
PROPAGATION By division.

Sowerbrea juncea
ASPARAGACEAE (LILIACEAE)
Vanilla Lily
PROPAGATION By division.

Spermocoece stenophylla
Rubiaceae
Small spreading herb to 50cm across with grey-green, lanceolate-ovate leaves to 3cm long. Globose heads of blue flowers are borne in the leaf axils just after the wet season. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA, WA.
PROPAGATION From cuttings and probably seed.
CULTIVATION Colourful rockery plant in warm climate. Requires full sun in well-drained soil.

Stackhousia pulvinaris
Celastraceae (Stackhousiaceae)
Prostrate mat plant spreading to 40cm high with light green, small, linear leaves to 1cm. Yellow-cream star-like flowers occur in profusion in early summer. Distribution: alpine areas of NSW, Vic, Tas.
PROPAGATION By division.
CULTIVATION Beautiful rock-hugging plant. Needs well-composted soil and ample moisture in cool position. Prefers some shade in warmer areas.

Stackhousia monogyna
Small perennial herb to 30cm. Light green, thick, spatulate lanceolate leaves are up to 3cm long. Spikes of white or cream flowers are borne terminally from spring to early summer. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA.
PROPAGATION From cuttings or by division.
CULTIVATION. Well-drained, sunny position.

Stackhousia viscosa
Common Beaked Trigger Plant
Small clumping plant with whorls of bright green, linear leaves about 1.3cm long on erect stems. Terminal sprays of pale pink flowers are borne in spring and summer. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA.
PROPAGATION From seed.
CULTIVATION Excellent for well-tended rockery or as container plant in shade house. Grow in well-composted soil and keep moist but not wet. Prefers part shade.

Stackhousia spathulata
Small annual to 30cm. Light green, thick, spatulate lanceolate leaves to 3cm long. Heads of white flowers borne on erect stems in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic, Tas, SA.
PROPAGATION From cuttings or by division.
CULTIVATION Well-drained, sunny position.

Stemodia glabella
(Syn. Morgania glabra)
Plantaginaceae (Scrophulariaceae)
Blueand

Stemodia viscosa
Common Beaked Trigger Plant
Small clumping plant with whorls of bright green, linear leaves about 1.3cm long on erect stems. Terminal sprays of pale pink flowers are borne in spring and summer. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA, NT, also recorded for India.
PROPAGATION From cuttings, but seed probably satisfactory also.
CULTIVATION Needs well-composted soil in full sun in frost-free area. Possible annual bedding plant.

Stirlingia simplex
Proteaceae
Small sub-shrub to 20cm high with grey-green, much-divided leaves to 12cm long. More or less tubular segments. Heads of pale yellow flowers on erect stems to 30cm are borne above the plant in spring. Distribution: WA.
PROPAGATION From cuttings (taken from leafy shoots near base of plant).
CULTIVATION Excellent drainage essential. Sandy soil. Has flowered in Canberra.

Stylidium
STYLIDIACEAE
Trigger Plants
The genus Stylidium, with some 110 species in Australia, includes many plants suitable for the rockery. Only a few are in common cultivation in the open ground, but many have been successfully grown in pot culture.
Their unique pollination method gives rise to their common name. The anthers and the stigma are combined into an irritable organ known as a column. When an insect alights on the base of this column it reacts like a trigger and hits the insect on its back, transferring a quantity of pollen, which is then moved to the next flower. The triggers are only reactive on warm sunny days, giving an indication as to the most suitable location in the garden.

Stylidium adnatum
Common Beaked Trigger Plant
Small clumping plant with whorls of bright green, linear leaves about 1.3cm long on erect stems. Terminal sprays of pale pink flowers are borne in spring and summer. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA.
PROPAGATION From seed.
CULTIVATION Excellent for well-tended rockery or as container plant in shade house. Grow in well-composted soil and keep moist but not wet. Prefers part shade.
**Eremophila subflocosa**

*Eremophila subflocosa*

Low spreading shrub to 60cm with woolly grey foliage. Green flowers in spring. Three subspecies are recognised. Distribution: SA, WA, NT.

**Cult**


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**Eriostemon**

RUTACEAE

**Eriostemon australis**

Wax Flowers

The genus *Eriostemon* has recently been revised, resulting in most species being transferred to the genus *Philothea*. The main distinguishing factor is that the petals of an *Eriostemon* flower have several veins and those of *Philothea* have a single vein. *Eriostemon now* has only three species, one of which occurs only in New Caledonia and is likely to be placed in another genus eventually. This leaves only two species native to Australia, the well-known *E. australis* and the little-known *E. banksii* from the north-east coast of Queensland.

**Distribution:** SA, WA.

**Cult**


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**Eriostemon longifolius**

Small open shrub to 1m high by 1m across. Dwarf forms are also known. Small, obovate or oblanceolate leaves are up to 1cm long, slightly concave upwards. Flowers are blue-mauve with spotted throat, about 1.5cm long. They are seen in spring and often in other seasons. Distribution: SA, WA, NT.

**Cult**

Propagation: From cuttings. Accepts reasonably well-drained soil and full sun or part shade recommended.

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**Erythroxylum**

Solanaceae

**Erythroxylum coca**

*Erythroxylum coca* is the source of cocaine. It is a hardy shrub with glossy green leaves and clusters of pink flowers. The young foliage is very attractive. It grows to 2m high and spreads by underground stems. Propagation is easy from seed or cuttings.

**Distribution:** Distinctly no mist! Erythroxylum coca are well known. Small, obovate or oblanceolate leaves to 7cm. Flowers are pink across with narrow-elliptical petals of an *E. coca*.

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**Eucalyptus**

MYRTACEAE

**Eucalyptus albens**

Barren Mountain Mallee

This eucalypt is found in the Blue Mountains, NSW. It has being cylindrical, 4cm long and about 5mm in diameter, are prominent sprays in winter and autumn. Distribution: Qld, NT.

**Cult**

Propagation is easy from seed, with eucalypts. Seed has germinated out at cotyledon stage.

**Eucalyptus alignata**

Swamp Stringybark

This species has a single vein. The main flower of *E. alignata* is *E. banksii*. The flowers are pink, white, star-like, to 3cm long. They are seen in spring. Distribution: NSW, Qld.

**Cult**

Propagation: From seed, with eucalypts. Some shade or full sun suitable. White form available as *E. a. Brilliance*.

**Eucalyptus appressa**

Eucalyptus appressa is a small shrub with narrow, lanceolate leaves to 9cm long. Flowers are creamy yellow in autumn. Distribution: Blue Mountains, NSW.

**Cult**

Propagation: From seed. Hardy; thrives on poor soils. Usually loses mallee form in better conditions. Flowers are showy. Good drainage important.

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**Eucalyptus approximans**

**Eucalyptus approximans**

Barren Mountain Mallee

This species has several veins and those of *E. approximans* are grey, oblong, to 11cm (often less). Flowers are creamy yellow, and flowering season varies. Distribution: near Ravenshorpe, WA.

**Cult**


**Eucalyptus grossa**

Coarse-leaved Mallee

Spreading mallee-type shrub to 3m and often 4m or more across. Thick wide leaves to 10cm on red stems. Flowers are conspicuous, creamy yellow, and occur in spring. Distribution: WA.

**Cult**

Propagation: From seed. Performs well in drier climates. Not easy to grow near the east coast. Requires good drainage. Slightly frost tender when young.

**Eucalyptus kruseana**

Bookleaf Mallee

Well-branched shrub to 3m high by 1m diameter. Blue-grey, round leaves to 2cm diameter. Flowers are creamy yellow in clusters near ends of branches and occur in autumn to winter. Distribution: WA.

**Cult**

Propagation: From seed. Very beautiful. Hardy in most soils. Although from arid area it does well on the coast. Needs sunny posi-
Eucalyptus luehmanniana
Yellow-top Mallee Ash

Mallee to 6m high, with smooth white bark shedding in long ribbons. Glossy leaves are broad-lanceolate to 18cm long. Large cream flowers are borne on flattened stalks in spring and early summer. Fruits are cup-shaped, about 1cm across. Distribution: NSW [Sydney region].

**CULTIVATION** Not common in cultivation but deserves to be seen more frequently. Bark and general form both attractive. Reasonable drainage and full sun recommended.

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Eucalyptus macrocarpa

**Eucalyptus macrocarpa**

**Mottlecah**

Straggling, open shrub to 5m [some compact forms seen in the field]: Sparsely branched with large, blue-grey, stalkless, oblong leaves. Crimson flowers are the largest of the genus, 8cm diameter. They occur from late winter to early summer. Fruits are large, grey and attractive.

**Distribution**: WA. **PROPAGATION**: From seed.

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Eucalyptus preissiana

**Bell-fruited Mallee**

Straggling plant to 4m with smooth bark. Leaves are thick, oblong, to 11cm. Large bright yellow flowers, 3cm diameter, occur in spring. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA. **PROPAGATION**: From seed.

**CULTIVATION**: Excellent ornamental if pruned to control shape. Rarely successful in Sydney but good plants known in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Subspecies lobata has larger fruits than the type. **Good drainage important.**

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Eucalyptus rhodantha

**Rose Mallee**

Very similar to *E. macrocarpa* but generally more compact shrub growing to 3m. Blue-grey, rounded leaves to 10cm diameter. Bears large red flowers, 7cm diameter, for most of the year. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA.

**PROPAGATION**: From seed.


**CONSERVATION STATUS**: Endangered.

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Eucalyptus serraensis

**Bell-fruit Mallee**

Spreading shrub to 3m high by 5m across [occasionally a small tree]. Twisted branches and thick oblong leaves to 12cm. Bears cream flowers from summer to early winter. Distribution: high peaks of the Grampians, Vic. **PROPAGATION**: From seed. (Stratification may assist germination.)

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Eucalyptus vernicosa

**Varnished Gum**

Compact shrub to 3m with smooth bark and small, thick, ovate leaves to 5cm. Cream flowers occur in summer. Distribution: alpine areas of Tas. **PROPAGATION**: From seed.

**CULTIVATION**: Very hardy in most coastal and tableland situations. Requires good drainage and ample moisture. Interesting landscaping plant, as mallee habit usually adopted.

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Eucryphia lucida

**CUNONIACEAE (EUCRYPHIACEAE)**

**Leatherwood**

Erect shrub or small tree to 7m with oblong leaves to 4cm. White, or rarely pink, fragrant flowers, 3cm diameter, reminiscent of a single rose, occur in late spring and summer. It is famous for the keatherwood honey produced from its flowers. Distribution: Tas. **PROPAGATION**: From cuttings.
success also reported from seed. **Cultivation.** Very reliable. Prefers well-composted soil and plenty of shade. Neat appearance; useful screen plant. Ample moisture of shade. Neat appearance; useful and

**Eucryphia milliganii**

Another Tasmanian endemic, with smaller leaves and flowers, reaching 2m. It can also be used as a screen plant.

**Eugenia reinwardtiana**

*(Syn. *E. carinoides)*

**MYRTACEAE**

Beach Cherry

**Eupomatia laurina**

Native Guava, Bolwarra

**Eupomatia bennettii**

Rounded or straggly shrub to 1m high, sometimes much less, with glossy, ovate leaves to 20cm with winged petioles. Flowers are creamy yellow, orange at centre, 2.5cm diameter, and appear in spring and early summer. Fruits are 2cm diameter and resemble rose hips. Distribution: NSW, Qld [in or near rainforests].

**Eupomatia EUPOMATIACEAE**

This interesting family, with only one genus and three species, is considered to be of ancient origin and without close relations in our modern florae. They occur in Australia and PNG and make fine garden or indoor specimens. Their floral structure is peculiar in that each flower consists of an outer ring of fertile stamens and an inner ring of sterile stamens (or staminodes). These latter are petal-like and provide a food source for a species of beetle (*Elleschodes sp.*), which in turn acts as the pollinating agent. The overall flower colour is cream.

When the fruits ripen in winter they soften and become fig-like. They are edible and aromatic and said to resemble a guava in flavour. The common name native guava has been given to *E. laurina*. The third species, *E. barbata*, a small shrub from north Queensland, has not been seen in cultivation. As garden subjects they are handsome shrubs with glossy green leaves. They require shade and a well-composted soil with ample moisture. Their frost tolerance has not been fully tested but *E. laurina* will tolerate at least mild frosts. Propagation is easy from cuttings or seed.

**Handsome foliage plant. Suitable for shaded rockery and as indoor specimen.**

**Euryomymus ramosissimum**

**Euryomymus ramosissimum**

*(Syn. *Baeckea ramosissima)*

**MYRTACEAE**

Very variable, usually spreading, heath-like shrub to 1m high or sometimes prostrate. Excellent forms are found on mid-north coast of NSW in heath. Flowers are often deep pink and at least 1cm diameter, in spring. *E. ramosissimum* var. prostrata is a low-growing shrub with smaller, nodding flowers. Distribution: NSW, Vic, Tas, SA. **Propagation.** From cuttings. **Cultivation.** Not easy to maintain for long periods in cultivation. Best results have been achieved in built-up sand and full sun. Very attractive and worth persevering with.

**Eutaxia FABACEAE**

*Eutaxia* is a small genus of pea-flowers with 22 species, all Western Australian endemics except *E. microphylla* and *E. diffusa*, which are both widespread. They are mostly small, woody shrubs bearing yellow and red flowers in spring. They require good drainage and a sunny situation. Propagation is by cuttings or scarified seed.

**Eutaxia microphylla**

Two forms exist, a prostrate, spreading plant forming a tight mat to 1.5m diameter with heath-like leaves to 5mm long, and a much-branched shrub to 1m high by 1m diameter with slightly broader leaves to 1cm long. Flowers of both forms are yellow pea-flowers with red centres and are profuse in spring. Distribution: SA, Vic, Tas, NSW. **Propagation.** From cuttings or scarified seed.

**Cultivation.** Prostrate form is an excellent ground cover or spreading rockery plant for a well-drained, sunny position. Foliage is neat. Upright form is a useful shrub, again requiring good drainage and full sun.

**Eutaxia obovata**

Rounded shrub to 1m high by 60cm across with lanceolate leaves to 2cm in four rows. Flowers are yellow with a red keel and appear in spring. Distribution: WA. **Propagation.** Scarified seed preferred.

**Cultivation.** Performs well in Sydney and Canberra. Hardy in most soils. Good drainage recommended. Accepts a little shade. Neat shrub. *E. cuneata* and *E. epacridoides* are also in cultivation. **Euterpe**

**Gardenia FABACEAE**

Euterpe is a small genus of ornamental. Frost sensitive.

**Gardenia scabrella**

Rounded shrub to 2m high by 1.5m across with oblanceolate, glossy leaves to 8cm. Bears fragrant white flowers, 5cm diameter in spring and summer. Distribution: Qld. **Propagation.** From cuttings. **Cultivation.** Growing well in Coles Harbour in semi-shade. Considerable potential as an ornamental. Frost sensitive.

**Gardenia megasperma**

Open shrub or small tree to 5m with heavy, often twisted branches. Large leaves obovate to 15cm long. Scented white flowers, 5cm diameter, are followed by large pear-shaped fruits. Distribution: WA, NT. **Propagation.** From fresh seed [after extraction from hard fruits]. **Cultivation.** Shrub with great character. Semi-deciduous in the field in the dry season, when leaves reddish prior to falling, but probably evergreen in cultivation. Young plants only observed at Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, where germination was very good. Good drainage and full sun suggested for best results. Possibly very cold tender.
**Gastrolobium**
**FABACEAE**
**Poison Peas**

The definition of the genus *Gastrolobium* has been the subject of much debate in recent years, for a while many were transferred to the genus *Nemicia*, but the *Australian Plant Census* treats it in the broad sense with 114 species. All but two are endemic to Western Australia, where the genus forms an interesting part of the flora. The exceptions, *G. grandiflorum* and *G. brevipes* from northern Australia, are not known in cultivation. While the flowers and foliage of many species are attractive, in general they have been avoided in cultivation, probably because of the poisonous components in their foliage (toxic to stock, and probably also to humans). The pea-flowers are yellow and red, orange or all red, and are usually well-displayed. Most species will require good drainage and a warm, sunny position. Propagation by scarified seed.

**Gastrolobium callistachys**
**Rock Poison**

Erect shrub to 2m with linear leaves to 5cm. Long sprays of pea-flowers, yellow-orange, occur in spring. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: Requires well-drained, sunny position. Adapts well to cultivation.

**Gastrolobium celsianum**
(Syn. *Brachys Erica celsianum, B. lanceolatum*)

Spreading, rounded shrub, 1.5m high and 3m across. Broad-lanceolate leaves are up to 10cm long and silvery grey on the underside. Bears red pea-flowers with prominent keel in spring. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed or cuttings taken mid to late summer. CULTIVATION: Needs sunny position in most well-drained soils. Useful tall ground cover. Responds well to pruning.

**Gastrolobium dilatatum**
(Syn. *Nemicia canesta, N. dilata, Oxylobium obovatum, O. canesta*)

Rounded shrub to 1m high [or less] by 60cm across. Leaves to 2cm have a blunt end. Bears orange-red pea-flowers in spring. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: Good drainage and full sun recommended.

**Gastrolobium ebracteolatum**
(Syn. *Oxylobium lineare*)

Pendulous shrub to 5m high by 4m across with linear leaves to 6cm. Bears yellow and red pea-flowers in spring. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed or cuttings. CULTIVATION: Good low shrub or ground cover. Needs well-drained, sunny position. Prostrate form performs well in Coff’s Harbour.

**Gastrolobium parviflorum**
(Syn. *Oxylobium parviflorum*)

Rounded shrub to 1m high by 60cm across with oblong leaves to 5cm. Yellow and red pea-flowers occur in winter and spring. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. Cuts also successful. CULTIVATION: Good drainage and full sun recommended.

**Gaultheria**
**ERICACEAE**

Of this very large pan-Pacific genus, only four species occur in Australia, with one of them, *G. depressa*, extending to NZ. They are low to medium-sized woody shrubs with dark green foliage and white flowers embedded in a succulent white or red calyx, which swells and remains coloured when fruit is mature. They are hardy ornamentals for shady positions in well-composted soil with good drainage, but need plenty of water. Propagation is from cuttings, but some success has been reported from seed with Tasmanian species.

**Gaultheria hispida**
(Syn. *Nemicia hispida*)

Compact shrub to 1m high by 1m diameter with bristly stems, otherwise similar to *G. appressa*. Distribution: Alpine areas of Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. Some success also reported from seed. CULTIVATION: As for *G. appressa*. Perhaps less pruning is needed.

**Gompholobium**
**FABACEAE**

*Gompholobium* is an endemic Australian genus with more than 50 species. They are mainly small, woody shrubs with sizeable yellow, greenish or pink pea-flowers, mostly borne in spring. They are not easy to cultivate but most are showy enough to warrant further investigation. They seem to demand perfect drainage and reasonably dry conditions with some overhead shade. Propagation is easy from scarified seed, although seed is often difficult to obtain because of insect damage.

**Gompholobium grandiflorum**

Erect, open shrub to 2m high by 1m diameter with green, broad-lanceolate leaves to 6cm. Bears small white flowers followed by showy white fruits in late summer. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. CULTIVATION: Prune from early age to maintain compact shape. Suitable for containers.

**Gonomorphia verrucosa**
**RUTACEAE**

Yellow Bells

Small rounded shrub to 1m by 1m. Obovate leaves are crowded and about 1.2cm long. The terminal yellow flowers, borne in small clusters, are almost hidden by the yellow leaf-like bracts. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION: Difficult from cuttings and seeds; smoke treatment of seed (see p. 321) has recently given good results. CULTIVATION: Beautiful species rarely seen in cultivation, although common in florist shops as cut flower from bush harvesting, which has caused it to become rare outside national parks. Perhaps now we will see plantations developed in suitable areas. Well-drained site in full sun or part shade recommended. Makes fine potted plant.

**Geleznowia verrucosa**

Erect, open shrub to 2m high by 1m diameter with green, broad-lanceolate leaves to 6cm. Bears small white flowers followed by showy white fruits in late summer. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. CULTIVATION: Prune from early age to maintain compact shape. Suitable for containers.

**Gompholobium**

**G. appressa**

Small rounded shrub to 1m by 1m. Obovate leaves are crowded and about 1.2cm long. The terminal yellow flowers, borne in small clusters, are almost hidden by the yellow leaf-like bracts. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA.

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**Gonomorphia**

**G. grandiflorum**

Erect, open shrub to 2m high by 1m diameter with green, broad-lanceolate leaves to 6cm. Bears small white flowers followed by showy white fruits in late summer. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. CULTIVATION: Prune from early age to maintain compact shape. Suitable for containers.

**Gonomorphia**

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**Gonomorphia**

**G. grandiflorum**

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**Gonomorphia**

**G. appressa**

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**Gonomorphia**

**G. grandiflorum**

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**G. appressa**

Small rounded shrub to 1m by 1m. Obovate leaves are crowded and about 1.2cm long. The terminal yellow flowers, borne in small clusters, are almost hidden by the yellow leaf-like bracts. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION: Difficult from cuttings and seeds; smoke treatment of seed (see p. 321) has recently given good results. CULTIVATION: Beautiful species rarely seen in cultivation, although common in florist shops as cut flower from bush harvesting, which has caused it to become rare outside national parks. Perhaps now we will see plantations developed in suitable areas. Well-drained site in full sun or part shade recommended. Makes fine potted plant.
**Gompholobium latifolium**

Golden Glory Pea

Erect shrub to 2m. Digitate leaves, much broader than *G. grandiflorum*, with three leaflets, to 5cm. Largest flowers of the genus. Bears yellow pea-flowers, with 3cm standard, in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic.

PROPAGATION From scarified seed.

**CULTIVATION** Very showy.

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**Gompholobium scabrum**

(Syn. *Burtonia scabra*)

Bushy shrub to 1.5m with linear heath-like leaves. Bears large woody shrubs with yellow pea-flowers. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas.

PROPAGATION From scarified seed.

**CULTIVATION** Outstanding, but very difficult to maintain. Well-drained, well-mulched soil is suggested, and part shade.

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**Gompholobium virgatum**

Wallum Wedge-pea

Low bushy shrub about 1m high. Leaves are digitate with linear to very narrow-oblancoolate leaflets to 3cm long. Large bright yellow pea-flowers are seen in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW.

PROPAGATION From scarified seed.

**CULTIVATION** Very showy in flower. Requires excellent drainage and sunny or part-shaded site. *G. huegelii* is also in cultivation and requires similar conditions.

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**Goodia pubescens**

(Syn. *G. lotifolia var. pubescens*)

Round shrub to 1m high by 1m diameter. Leaves are trifoliolate, slightly hairy. Leaflets are ovate, to 1.5cm. Yellow flowers appear in spring and summer. Distribution: Vic, Tas.

PROPAGATION From scarified seed.

**CULTIVATION** Much more compact than the previous species. May self-seed in the garden. Useful small shrub accepting most soils and aspects.

**Gossaia fragrantissima**

(Syn. *Austromyrtus fragrantissima*)

A eucalyptus-like evergreen shrub, up to 3m high, with shiny ovate leaves to 6cm long. Young growth is pinkish brown. White fluffy flowers, borne in axillary clusters, are very fragrant. Fruits are red, globose and about 6mm diameter. Distribution: Qld, NSW.

PROPAGATION From fresh seed.

**CULTIVATION** Perfect shrub, slow growing. Prefers shaded, well composted soil with good drainage. Birds are attracted to the fruits.

**CONSERVATION STATUS** Endangered.

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**Gossypium luteum**

*Malvaceae*

Gossypium is a tropical genus of great ornamental importance. From its members we obtain cotton and cottonseed oil. The 17 Australian species are of ornamental value only, although scientists are showing interest in them as an additional gene pool. *G. sturtianum* has established itself as a useful garden plant. It requires a warm, well-drained position away from severe frosts. Propagation is from cuttings or seed.

**Gossypium sturtianum**

Sturt’s Desert Rose

Erect or rounded shrub to 2m, often less. Rounded, glaucous leaves to 6cm diameter. Hibiscus-like flowers, pale bluish purple with red centre, to 12cm diameter, occur in winter and spring. Floral emblem of NT. Distribution: Qld, NSW, SA, WA, NT.

PROPAGATION From cuttings or seed.

**CULTIVATION** Occasionally shy to flower. Select from free-flowering clones. Also in cultivation are *G. s. var. nanawarrense* (Syn. *G. nanawarrense*), a rare shrub from NSW and Qld, and *G. robinsonii*, a shrub from WA.

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**Graptolebium excelsum**

**Grevillea**

**PROPSTREPEACEAE**

The genus *Grevillea* has recently been revised by Peter Olde and Neil Marrriott, the results being published in a three-volume set entitled The *Grevillea* Book (Kangaroo Press, 1995). Subsequently, Volume 17A of *Flora of Australia* was published in 2000, with 362 species and almost 100 subspecies included in *Grevillea*, making it the third largest genus in the Australian flora. Since then several new species and subspecies have been described. Most species are endemic to Australia, although some extend outside the country, and a few are endemic to New Caledonia [3], Sulawesi [1] and Papua New Guinea [1]. With few exceptions they have horticultural potential, with flowers of many different forms and colours, and varying in size from prostate woody plants to tall trees.

For convenience [but with no sound botanical basis], the flower form can be categorised in several ways, depending on the way the individual flowers are grouped together:

1. The erect cluster, where flowers are borne terminally to form an upright spider-like inflorescence (e.g., *G. bacifolia*—see drawing, p. 345).

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**Graptophyllum spinigerum**

Queensland Holly

Compact bush to 1m or a little taller. Dark green, ovate leaves to 4cm. Spines sometimes present in leaf axils of older stems. Small white axillary flowers, about 1cm long, seen from time to time throughout year. Distribution: Qld, NT.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

2. The pendent cluster, where flowers are borne terminally or along the branches but hang below the branch, again in a spider-like form (e.g. G. victoriae—see drawing, p. 366).

3. The toothbrush type, where flowers are borne terminally in a one-sided raceme (e.g. G. acanthifolia—see drawing, this page).

4. The cylindrical inflorescence, where flowers are borne terminally all around the stem (G. stenobotrya—see photo p. 366).

5. The soft, feathery inflorescence of the G. manglesii/G. triloba group (see drawing, p. 367). Most Grevillea spp. are in cultivation, many having proved themselves as reliable garden subjects. Others, mostly species from drier inland habitats, always prove difficult on the humid coast unless they are grafted onto resistant rootstock. Early work on grafting in the mid-1970s at the Australian National Botanic Gardens was taken up by members of the Grevillea Study Group of the Australian Plants Society. The late Harvey Shaw, Merv Hodge and, more recently, Dave Mason and others developed techniques that have made the grafting of grevilleas standard commercial practice. (See p. 43 for details.) Plants once virtually impossible to grow on the east coast may now be grown with relative ease. The stock plant used for most species is the Silky Oak (C. robusta), but work is still proceeding to determine the optimum stock for several others. G. banksii and G. ‘Poorinda Royal Mantle’ are favoured for species that have shown incompatibility with Silky Oak.

To see a huge collection of grevilleas in cultivation, The Grevillea Park at Bulli on the south coast of NSW is worth a visit. The garden is the brainchild of grevillea enthusiast Ray Brown, with community and council assistance a wonderfully landscaped garden has been created almost entirely with grevilleas, with a rainforest backdrop of other native plants. As the garden is not open every day, enquiries should be made from the local council before arranging a visit.

In general, Grevillea spp. do best in well-drained, sunny positions. In shade, flowering is usually diminished. Soil type does not appear to be important, provided that it is slightly acid. Excess of phosphorus in fertilisers may prove fatal, but response to balanced fertilisers is excellent. (See Chapter 5.)

Propagation is easy from cuttings taken in mid to late summer. Most species can also be grown from seed but as Grevillea spp. hybridise very readily, seed from cultivated plants will rarely come true.

Many species are excellent bird attractors, as they produce huge quantities of nectar. Along with the plethora of natural species, there are almost as many cultivars. Most have occurred accidentally as seedlings in gardens, only a few arising from deliberate manipulation. Some are worthwhile and will remain in our nurseries as excellent horticultural subjects. Others that show little or no improvement on their parents will cease to be grown. In the following treatment, some cultivars included in earlier editions have been omitted and new ones that appear to show promise have been added. Almost all species are worth trying, however, even if they are not included here.

The recommended planting zones apply to plants on their own roots. Grafted specimens will have a much broader tolerance to weather conditions.

**Grevillea acanthifolia**

Spreading shrub to 3m high and 4m wide. Leaves are pinnately divided, stiff and prickly, to 12cm. Pink toothbrush-type flowers occur for most of the year. Two rare subspecies occur, one on the southern tablelands and one on the northern tablelands of NSW. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Excellent ornamental with attractive foliage. Good feature plant. Long flowering. Develops interesting shape when pruning kept to a minimum. Hardy in most situations. Accepts wetter and shadier positions than most Grevillea spp. 

**Grevillea agrifolia**

Tall, rounded shrub to 5m high with broadly obovate grey-green leaves to about 12cm, often with small marginal teeth. The pendent flower clusters, about 6cm long, are borne in the leaf axes and terminally from autumn to spring. The flowers are white with a yellow-green style. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: NT, WA. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Grows well in Brisbane and further north. Foliation is particularly attractive. Flowers are not showy. Full sun and relatively dry climate recommended.

**Grevillea angustiloba**

(Syn. G. dichotoma var. angustiloba) Prostrate or procumbent shrub to 1m high spreading to 2m. Leaves to 1cm long with finely divided segments less than 4mm wide. Red or rarely yellow toothbrush-type flowers are seen from late spring to early summer. A second subspecies is recognised. Distribution: Vic, SA. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Hardy in most soils in temperate areas. Needs sunny position. Prostrate forms make suitable ground covers.

**Grevillea annulifera**

Prickly Plume Grevillea Erect shrub to 3m high by 3m wide. Pinnate leaves with narrow, pointed leaflets to 2.5cm. Large numbers of cylindrical spikes of white flowers are borne on long stems to 4m high in spring. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION From cuttings or grafted onto resistant rootstock (difficult to date). CULTIVATION Performs well in Perth and some drier regions. Very variable, spreading or upright shrubs to 1m high or sometimes much taller, and variable width. Doll green holly-like leaves to 8cm. Toothbrush-type flower spikes of green flowers with red styles occur in late winter to early summer. A yellow-flowered form is known. Distribution: Vic, SA. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Very hardy. Grows well in most locations in temperate climates. Tolerates considerable shade. Several varieties available, identified by place of origin.

**Grevillea australis**

Compact, rounded shrub to 2.5m high and 3m diameter with dull green, oblong leaves to 4cm. Flowers are green or red, hairy, with a red or green style, and borne in few-flowered clusters for most of the year. A yellow form is also known. Two sub-species.
Shrubs

Grevillea aspera

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Flinders Range Grevillea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compact shrub to 1m (taller forms known in the field). Leaves are oblong, to 8cm. Flowers in a tight, pendulous cluster, cream and red, occur in spring. Distribution: SA, WA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPAGATION From cuttings.
CULTIVATION Very hardy. Good foliage plant, and useful as cut flower. Fast growing.

Grevillea aspleniifolia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>Handsome spreading shrub to 3m high by 4m wide. Linear leaves, rarely toothed, to 25cm. Red toothbrush-type flowers occur for most of the year. Distribution: NSW.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There was confusion for many years between this species and <em>G. longifolia</em>, which has more evenly and deeply toothed leaves, and branchlets angular in cross-section. <em>G. longifolia</em> is far more commonly cultivated, but still is frequently incorrectly named as <em>G. aspleniifolia</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPAGATION From cuttings, or grafted onto resistant rootstock.
CULTIVATION Rare in cultivation. Grown in Sydney with limited success. Grafted plants preferred on the east coast. Interesting foliage plant. Some excellent old specimens on their own roots at Myall Park Botanic Garden, Glenmorgan, Qld.

Grevillea asteriscosa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th>Upright or spreading, rigid shrub to 2m high. Prickly, star-shaped, sessile leaves to 2cm. Bright red clustered flowers occur in spring. Distribution: WA.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROPAGATION From cuttings, or grafted onto resistant rootstock.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CULTIVATION Rare in cultivation. Grown in Sydney with limited success. Grafted plants preferred on the east coast. Interesting foliage plant. Some excellent old specimens on their own roots at Myall Park Botanic Garden, Glenmorgan, Qld.

Grevillea aurea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>(G. sp. aff. angulata)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tall, open shrub to 4m high by 2m across. Soft holly-shaped leaves to 8cm. Reddish new growth. Drooping racemes of yellow flowers fading to orange-red on aging. This form was included in <em>G. angulata</em>. Distribution: NT.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPAGATION From cuttings.
CULTIVATION Outstanding shrub. Grown successfully in Darwin, Brisbane, and at the Australian National Botanic Gardens where rooted cuttings flowered in 12 months in the glasshouse. Good drainage and warm situation recommended. Very frost tender.

Grevillea banksii

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>Banks’ Grevillea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole-branched shrub to 3m high by 2m diameter with dark green, pinnate leaves to 15cm. Cylindrical flower spikes to 18cm are bright red, cream forms also exist. Flowers most of the year. Distribution: Qld.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This description matches the forms in common cultivation, which are of uncertain origin. The red-flowered form is sometimes referred to as *G. banksii* var. *forsteri*, but the name has no botanical status. Other forms known in the field include a low, sprawling, often prostrate shrub, rarely exceeding 1m, and a tall shrub 5–9m high. Both have a more restricted flowering period, concentrated in spring.

PROPAGATION From cuttings or seed, if known to be of non-hybrid origin.
CULTIVATION Very hardy and rewarding in frost-free areas. Thrives in a sunny position in most coastal soils. Excellent specimen plant. A mixed planting of cream and red forms provides interesting contrast. Low-growing forms in both cream and red have been used very effectively in Brisbane gardens as rockery or bank plants. A totally prostrate form with smaller leaves is sold as *G. ’Ruby Red’*. (See p. 110)

Grevillea barklyana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6</th>
<th>Gally Grevillea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large, tapered shrub or small tree to 8m. Light green, lobed leaves to 20cm. Pink toothbrush-type flower spikes appear in late winter and spring. Distribution: Vic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPAGATION From cuttings.
CULTIVATION Good fast-growing screen plant, accepts reasonably heavy shade.

Grevillea baueri

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>ssp. <em>asperula</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Straggling, upright shrub to 1.5m high by 1m across. Leaves are oblong, rough and slightly hairy, to 2.5cm. Red flowers in erect clusters appear in late winter and spring. Distribution: NSW (Budawang Range).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPAGATION From cuttings.
CULTIVATION Hardy for temperate areas. Needs full sun and well-drained soil. Prune regularly in early summer to prevent woody appearance at base. Old flowers tend to blacken on aging.

Grevillea beardiana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>Red Combs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spreading shrub to 60cm tall by 80cm across with stiff, pointed, linear leaves to 5cm long. The red flowers are borne in terminal, mostly pendulous clusters. Distribution: WA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPAGATION From cuttings, or grafted onto *G. robusta* rootstock.
CULTIVATION Only recently cultivated. Very well displayed flowers, good bird attractor. Grow in full sun in well-drained rockery.

Grevillea beadleana

1986 after its rediscovery in 1982. Shows great potential as an ornamental and has made its way into nurseries. Foliage is decorative and the dark flowers contrast well. Frost hardy and also does well on humid east coast, where it grows rapidly.
Grevillea ‘Billy Bonkers’

Hybrid between G. nana sp. abbreviata and G. ‘Sid Cadwell’ forming a spreading shrub about 1.5m high by 2.5m across. It has bright green divided leaves and pendent racemes of pink flowers. Plants available as grafted specimens should be hardy in most areas of temperate and subtropical Australia. A product of the same cross sold as G. ‘Lana Maree’ is taller, reaching 1.5–2m with a spread of 3m, and producing prolific cerise flowers.

Grevillea ‘Bon Accord’

This handsome cultivar, a hybrid between G. volubilis and G. johnsonii, forms an erect shrub to about 1.5m high by 1.5m across. It has slightly prickly, bright green, divided leaves with linear-terete segments. Brilliant red, spidery flowers are borne in erect racemes in late winter to early summer. Plants available commercially are grafted. Full sun and reasonable drainage suggested. Excellent foliage. Sprawling forms may be used as rockery feature. Used as parent in many well-known hybrids.

Grevillea brachystylis

Sparsely branched, erect or spreading shrub to 60cm. Broadly linear or narrow-oblancoate leaves vary in length, 5–9cm. Small, slightly pendulous umbel-like racemes of flowers are borne terminally, on short branches, for much of the year. They are bright red and the very short style is tipped with a red or blue stigmatic disc. The form with the blue stigma is G. b. sp. australis. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or grafted onto resistant rootstock. CULTIVATION: Brilliant red flowers are showy. Excellent drainage and sunny position are essential, but even when these conditions are met it is short-lived on the humid east coast. Grafted plants are preferred. Rockery conditions or container culture probably suit it best. A prostrate form is also in cultivation. The blue-style form is generally harder. CONSERVATION STATUS: G. b. sp. australis is considered Vulnerable.

Grevillea bracteosa

Open shrub to 1.5m high by 1.5m across with narrow-linear leaves to 8cm long. Occasionally, divided leaves are found. Terminal pink or rarely white flower clusters are shielded by conspicuous bracts until they open. Flowers are seen for much of the year. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or grafted onto resistant rootstock. CULTIVATION: Must be from cuttings. HARDY, even on humid east coast. Foliage is attractive, flowers bring honey-eaters, as the name implies.

Grevillea buxifolia

Grey Spider Flower


Grevillea ‘Caloundra Gem’

A hybrid between the red garden form of G. banksii and G. whiteana, this shrub reaches 3–4m high and has pink flowers with creamy white styles. Flowers keep well and may have potential for the cut flower trade. Most soils are suitable and full sun is recommended.

Grevillea capitellata

Low spreading plant to 50cm high by 70cm across. Thickly textured, oblong leaves are up 8cm long. Dark red pendent clusters of flowers are borne terminally on short stalks at the end of winter and early spring. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. CULTIVATION: Hardy. May be used as tall ground cover in full sun in well-drained situation.

Grevillea chrysophaea

Golden Grevillea


Grevillea ‘Canberra Gem’

(Syn. G. ‘Pink Pearl’)

A hybrid between forms of G. rosmarinifolia and G. juniperina, this hardy plant forms a dense, rounded shrub, 2m by 2m. Registered cultivar. Flowers, in heavy-textured, pendent clusters, are waxy pink and red. G. ‘Glen Sandrat’ is probably synonymous.

Grevillea candelabrides

Rounded shrub to 4m with large, grey, pinnate leaves to 20cm long with terete segments. Profuse branching racemes, to 6cm long, of scented cream flowers held conspicuously above foliage in summer. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From cuttings, with difficulty; from seed from wild source or grafted onto resistant rootstock. CULTIVATION: Grafted plants are growing well in the eastern States, but it is also growing well on its own roots in King’s Park, Perth, in an open, warm position. Good drainage essential.

Grevillea capitellata

Low spreading plant to 50cm high by 70cm across. Thickly textured, oblong leaves are up 8cm long. Dark red pendent clusters of flowers are borne terminally on short stalks at the end of winter and early spring. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION: From cuttings. CULTIVATION: Hardy. May be used as tall ground cover in full sun in well-drained situation.

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Golden Grevillea


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Grevillea chrysophaea

Golden Grevillea

Shrub leaves and deep pink toothbrush-shrub about 3m high, with oblong and either Grevillea Registered hybrid between ABC occurs in late winter and spring. Very woolly, green to gold, and leaves are hairy on the underside. oblong to ovate leaves to 3cm. occasionally even prostrate, and with mainly divided leaves are referred to as G. c. ssp. pitumatisecta. Distribution: WA. Propagation: From cuttings. Has been successfully grafted onto G. robusta. Cultivation: Vigorous, fast growing. Needs full sun or half shade and grows in most soils.

Grevillea ‘Crobbie Morrison’

Erect hybrid between G. latigera and G. lavandulacea forming low, spreading shrub to 1.5m high by 2m across with arching branches. Grey-green leaves are linear, 1.5cm long. Red and white flowers are borne in spidery clusters from late winter to early summer. Propagation: From cuttings. Cultivation: Hardy for temperate areas. Accepts some shade.

Grevillea ‘Copper Rocket’

Erect shrub that may reach 3m high by 2m across. One parent is probably G. harklyana. Leaves are broadly oblong with 5–9 pointed lobes. Young growth is coppery in colour. Pink toothbrush-type flowers are seen in spring and summer. Possibly useful as screen plant.

Grevillea coriacea

Tall shrub to 5m high, sometimes spreading, with elliptical leaves to 15cm, usually less. Erect clusters of red flowers in a simple or branched spray occur in winter. A subspecies with smaller flowers and fruits is recognised. Distribution: Qld (in open woodland). Propagation: From seed. Cultivation: Needs well-drained, sunny position. Succeeds in Brisbane and Townsville but may be unreliable further south. Frost tender.

Grevillea crithmifolia

Compact shrub to 2m high by 2m wide. Low-growing forms also in cultivation. Light green leaves to 2.5cm long are divided at the end into three narrow segments. Dense clusters of white or pink flowers occur in spring. Distribution: WA. Propagation: From cuttings. Cultivation: In cultivation in Sydney has reached 3m by 3m, but this appears unusual. Useful as screen plant. Very hardy in most conditions. Pink-flowered forms are especially attractive.

Grevillea chrysophylla

Spreading shrub to 2m high by 3m across. Leaves to 8cm long are variable, usually entire but occasionally divided. Dense terminal clusters of white flowers occur in late winter and spring. Plants with mainly divided leaves are referred to as G. c. ssp. commutata

Grevillea difformis

Erect shrub that may reach 3m high. Grey-green, pinnate leaves are up to 30cm long with broad linear segments tapering to the mid-rib. Pendulous pink flowers are borne in the upper axes from late summer to autumn. It has large, globular, woody fruits to 3cm diameter. Distribution: WA, NT. Propagation: From seed. Cultivation: Has grown and flowered well on its own roots for many years at Coftts Harbour. Prefers warm, well-drained site.

Grevillea decora

Tall, slender shrub to 4m high. Grey-green, pinnate leaves are up to 30cm long with broad linear segments tapering to the mid-rib. Pendulous pink flowers are borne in the upper axes from late summer to autumn. It has large, globular, woody fruits to 3cm diameter. Distribution: WA, NT. Propagation: From seed. Cultivation: Has grown and flowered well on its own roots for many years at Coftts Harbour. Prefers warm, well-drained site.

Grevillea depauperata

Ssp. brownii

Round-headed, spreading shrub to 60cm by 1m across or occasionally prostrate, with ovate leaves to 2cm. Red or orange semi-erect flowers in clusters occur for most of the year. Distribution: WA. Propagation: From cuttings or grafted onto resistant rootstock. Cultivation: Not common in cultivation, but good specimens seen in most east coast centres.

Grevillea diminuta

Spreading shrub to 1m high, usually less, by 1m diameter with elliptical leaves to 2cm. Flowers are in pendulous clusters, rusty red in colour, and appear in spring. Distribution: ACT, NSW. Propagation: From cuttings. Cultivation: Very hardy in Canberra. Useful low shrub with neat foliage. Accepts well-drained sunny or shaded position.

Grevillea dimorpha

(syn. G. hakeaoides ssp. dimorpha, G. speciosa ssp. dimorpha)

Flame Grevillea

Grevillea dielsiana

Erect, much-branched shrub to 1.5m high by 1m wide with divided, terete, prickly foliage. Pendulous clusters of red or orange-yellow flowers occur in spring and early summer. Distribution: WA. Propagation: From cuttings or grafted onto resistant rootstock. Cultivation: Performs well on its own roots in the eastern States, but not commonly grown. Outstanding shrub with attractive foliage. Orange-yellow form is particularly good. Well-drained, sunny position recommended.

Grevillea diffusa

(syn. G. filifera ssp. diffusa)

Spreading or erect, variable shrub to 1m. Leaves are linear to oblong, 3–7cm long. Dark red flowers in pendulous clusters on stalks less than 1.5cm long occur in winter to spring.

Grevillea equiseta

(syn. G. equisetoides)

Compact shrub to 3m high. Grey-green, pinnate leaves up to 30cm long with broad linear segments tapering to the mid-rib. Pendulous pink flowers are borne in the upper axes from late summer to autumn. It has large, globular, woody fruits to 3cm diameter. Distribution: WA, NT. Propagation: From seed. Cultivation: Has grown and flowered well on its own roots for many years at Coftts Harbour. Prefers warm, well-drained site.

Grevillea equisetoides

Compact shrub to 3m high. Grey-green, pinnate leaves up to 30cm long with broad linear segments tapering to the mid-rib. Pendulous pink flowers are borne in the upper axes from late summer to autumn. It has large, globular, woody fruits to 3cm diameter. Distribution: WA, NT. Propagation: From seed. Cultivation: Has grown and flowered well on its own roots for many years at Coftts Harbour. Prefers warm, well-drained site.

Grevillea filifera

(syn. G. filifera ssp. filifera)

Flame Grevillea

Grevillea ‘Clearview David’

Registered hybrid between G. rosmarinifolia and G. lavandulacea (Vicotor Harbour). Erect plant that may reach 2.5m high. Reddish spider flowers are profuse in late winter and spring.

Grevillea ‘Coastal Glow’

(Syn. G. ‘Frampton’s Hybrid’)

Hybrid between G. macleariana and either G. longifolia or G. aspleniifolia, forming rounded shrub about 3m high, with oblong leaves and deep pink toothbrush-type flowers.

Grevillea ‘Flame’

Erect shrub to 2m high. Grey-green, pinnate leaves are up to 30cm long with broad linear segments tapering to the mid-rib. Pendulous pink flowers are borne in the upper axes from late summer to autumn. It has large, globular, woody fruits to 3cm diameter. Distribution: WA, NT. Propagation: From seed. Cultivation: Performs well on its own roots in the eastern States, but not commonly grown. Outstanding shrub with attractive foliage. Orange-yellow form is particularly good. Well-drained, sunny position recommended.

Grevillea ‘Flame’

Erect shrub to 2m high. Grey-green, pinnate leaves are up to 30cm long with broad linear segments tapering to the mid-rib. Pendulous pink flowers are borne in the upper axes from late summer to autumn. It has large, globular, woody fruits to 3cm diameter. Distribution: WA, NT. Propagation: From seed. Cultivation: Performs well on its own roots in the eastern States, but not commonly grown. Outstanding shrub with attractive foliage. Orange-yellow form is particularly good. Well-drained, sunny position recommended.

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Rounded shrub to 1m high by 1m diameter. Dark green leaves to 10cm are linear to elliptical. Bright red flower clusters in leaf axils appear in winter and spring. Distribution: WA, SA, NT.

**PROPAGATION** From cuttings. **CULTIVATION** Grafted plants preferred. Does well on its own roots in inland areas and on sandy soils in tropical areas. Requires dry, warm, well-drained position. Beautiful ground cover or rockery plant.

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**Grevillea dryandri**

Dryander’s Grevillea

Low spreading shrub, 70cm high and 2m across, with finely divided grey-green leaves to 20cm. Pink, red or rarely white toothbrush-type flowers to 30cm long, branching stems occur in autumn and winter. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA, NT, Qld (northern areas).

**PROPAGATION** From cuttings, seed from wild source or grafted onto resistant rootstock. **CULTIVATION** Grafted plants grown well on the east coast. Unusual plant, worth a spot in a rockery where its long flowering stems can trail over rocks. Full sun recommended. **CONSERVATION STATUS** Both subspecies are considered Endangered.

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**Grevillea endlicheriana**

Spindly Grevillea

Phalanx Grevillea

Low-growing, suckering shrub to 30cm high with long prostrate stems bearing the flowers. Leaves are pinnate, grey-green and mostly 10–12cm long. Toothbrush-type flowers, pink or red and quite hairy, are seen from winter to summer. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: WA. **PROPAGATION** From cuttings or grafted onto G. robusta.

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**Grevillea eriostachya**

Yellow Flame Grevillea

A narrowly conical, dark red, almost black flowered shrub, rarely exceeding 1m in cultivation. Pinnate leaves are about 4cm long. Bright pink flowers are borne terminally in slightly pendulous clusters in spring. Distribution: WA. **PROPAGATION** From cuttings or grafted onto resistant rootstock. **CULTIVATION** Lovely shrub now commonly available. Plants grafted onto G. robusta are successful on the east coast. Usually sold as G. ‘Ellendale’ or G. ‘Ellendale Pool’.

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**Grevillea ‘Firesprite’**

A hybrid between G. venusta and G. longistyla, this vigorous shrub reaches 4m by 4m with divided leaves and coppery new growth. Brilliant red erect flowers are borne in cylindrical terminal spikes for much of the year. Very useful, colourful screen plant for warm areas.
Imagine a world without trees!

They are vital to almost every landscape, natural or contrived. Without them we have concrete jungles, deserts and tundras—none of them pleasant places.

Trees provide shelter from the wind, shade from the sun and a softness that contrasts with the hard lines of buildings. They attract birds and, like shrubs, provide nesting places, but usually for different species. The colourful parrots so well represented in Australia feed on their fruits and often nest in hollows of old eucalypts.

For the purposes of this book, a tree is considered as a woody plant usually taller than 6 metres and usually, although not always, having a single trunk.

Feature Trees

Trees can be used as features in gardens and parks, visual emphasis usually being placed on form, bark characteristics or foliage type. In some cases flowers or fruits are the focus of attention. Bark is a particularly important consideration in their selection, and many Australian trees have outstanding bark characteristics, noted in the species descriptions.

The Australian flora is rich in trees, with the genus Eucalyptus being dominant in most environments. The rainforest trees are not as well known, but form an important group which has great horticultural application in most coastal climates.

Habitat Creation

There is a tendency to overplant in many new gardens, without fully considering the ultimate size of the tree. This is to be avoided if a tree’s full potential is to be realised. On the other hand, if the gardener wants to create a special effect by simulating a particular habitat, then close planting is excusable and, in fact, commendable. In this context, special mention should be made of a private garden near Ipswich, Qld, owned by Lloyd Bird. Here, in a most unlikely environment, a very successful attempt was made to establish a rainforest. His enthusiasm infected neighbouring gardeners and the rainforest spread. Such specialised gardens require a thorough knowledge of plant material, however, without it they are doomed to failure.

Street Trees

Many gardeners, often with local council encouragement, are keen to beautify the streetscape by planting trees. All too often, however, insufficient thought goes into their selection.

In the species descriptions below, the symbol ▫ has been given to trees that have been, or have potential to be, used as street trees. A ▫ rating indicates that further trials are necessary before their ultimate use can be evaluated.

The criteria for allocating a ▫ rating include:

1. Height in Cultivation

This is obviously very important where street trees have to be positioned under powerlines. Taller trees can be considered where powerlines are not a concern, but care is still required to avoid trees that may affect nearby houses and gardens. I do not believe that one can specify an optimum height for a street tree but consideration of height, and thus knowledge of performance of a species in a particular area, is critical.

2. Spread

Especially where nature strips are narrow, this factor is critical to avoid blocking either road or footpath. Pruning can be used to correct poor selection in terms of either height or spread, but this is most undesirable from the point of view of plant performance and economics.

3. Root Formation

Species with vigorous and spreading surface root systems must be avoided. They will break up footpaths and mags or make home gardens unworkable.

4. Resistance to Pests and Diseases

Local councils do not want to be involved in expensive programmes of pest or disease control. Street trees should, therefore, be hardy and resistant.

5. Leaf Drop

It is desirable that leaf drop be kept to a minimum or, if it does occur, that it be concentrated into a short period. The value of deciduous exotics has also to be considered here, particularly in cooler climates, where their leaf colour is a feature in autumn and sun can penetrate their branches in winter.

6. Fruit Drop

It is generally undesirable for street trees to have succulent fruit that may be trampled underfoot. In a few instances where fruit is particularly attractive I have ignored this factor, where such trees are used, position them so that they not overhang the footpath.

7. Branch Strength

Trees known to have a tendency to drop branches in strong winds should be avoided.

Abrophyllum ornans

ROUSSEACEAE

ESCALLONIACEAE

Tall shrub or small tree to 8m. Leaves are elliptical, to 20cm, toothed towards tips and paler below. Sprays of small yellow spring flowers are insigntificant. Oval black fruits are about 1cm long. Two varieties are recognised.

Distribution: NSW, Qld.

PROPAGATION: From cuttings.


Acacia aneura

FABACEAE (MIMOSACEAE)

ABC

Small tree or large shrub to 7m high by 7m across, often multi-stemmed. Phyllodes are narrow to broad-linear, greyish, to 10cm. Rod-like yellow flowers occur in autumn or other times, depending on rain. The multi-complex is the subject of a joint DNA study at the herbaria in Perth and Canberra, and changes can be expected. Currently ten varieties are recognised. Distribution: Qld, NSW, SA, WA, NT.

PROPAGATION: From scarified seed.

CULTIVATION: Hardy in drier areas. Attractive foliage. Full sun and good drainage essential. Timber is used extensively for the mulga wood ornaments sold as Australiana souvenirs. Seeds are harvested for use in cooking.

Acacia auriculiformis

Ear-pod Wattle

WZ

Medium to tall tree to 25m. Phyllodes slightly falcate, to 16cm. Golden flowers in rods in autumn. Distribution: NT, Qld, PNG, Indonesia.

PROPAGATION: From scarified seed.

CULTIVATION: Hardy. Short but spectacular flowering season. Accepts salt spray.

Acacia baileyana

Coolamundra Wattle

Small tree or large shrub to 8m high by 8m across. Bipinnate leaves to 4cm are grey, with linear leaflets. Profuse gold ball-shaped flowers occur in late winter. Pods are bluish when young. A form with purplish leaves that has been known as
Acacia bakeri
Marblewood

Tall tree to 40m. Elliptical phyllodes to 9cm and cream ball flowers in spring. Distribution: NSW, ACT, Vic.

Acacia binervata
Two-veined Hickory

Medium sized, dense tree to 13m, with phyllodes to 12cm by 1–3cm wide, usually 2-veined. Bears cream ball-shaped flowers in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW.

Acacia binervia
(Syn. A. glaucescens)

Coastal Myall

Medium sized tree to 16m with rough, fibrous bark. Grey sickle-shaped phyllodes to 15cm. Golden rod-like flowers occur in spring. Distribution: NSW, Vic.

Acacia caerulescens
Buchan Blue Wattle, Limestone Blue Wattle

Tree to 15m with blue-grey branches and more or less elliptical phyllodes to 8cm long, blue-grey when young. Racemes of lemon yellow ball-shaped flowers are seen from late spring. Distribution: Vic [rare].

Acacia cheelii
Motherumbah

Small tree or large shrub to 8m with dense foliage and linear-elliptical phyllodes to 18cm. Bears golden rod-like flowers in spring. Distribution: NSW. From scarified seed. Cultivation: Requires a well-drained, sunny position. Handsome screen plant.

Acacia decurrens
Black Wattle


Acacia dealbata
Silver Wattle

Variable, from multi-stemmed shrub-like specimens of 8m to trees 30m high, with greyish green bipinnate leaves. Bears cream ball-shaped flowers in spring. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas [naturalised in SA and WA]. From scarified seed. Cultivation: A hardy but unspectacular. Most soils and aspects suitable. A prostrate form registered as A. d. ‘Kambah Karpet’ is available.

Acacia elata
Mountain Hickory

Slender tree to 10m. Phyllodes are sickle-shaped, to 20cm. Bears cream ball-shaped flowers in spring and early summer. Differs from related A. fasciculifera by having greener phyllodes with a marginal gland 1–2cm from the base; usually taller and flowers later. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic.

Acacia falcata
Rosewood

Usually reaching about 10m, taller trees have been logged for the hard red timber. Leathery, elliptical phyllodes are to 15cm long and 2–3cm wide. Flowers are yellow balls borne in axillary clusters, followed by flat pods to 15cm long. Distribution: Qld. From scarified seed. Cultivation: Hardy and showy, for subtropical and tropical areas. Flowers said to possess a sweet perfume different from other wattles.

Acacia fimbriata

(Syn. A. perangusta, A. limbriata var. perangusta)

Fringed Wattle, Brisbane Golden Wattle

Small tree or rounded shrub to 7m high by 6m across. Phyllodes are...
Acacia podalyriifolia

Plant. Dwarf forms are available.

**Acacia flavescens**

Yellow Wattle

Medium sized tree to 10m. Ovate, slightly falcate phyllodes with several marginal glands. Cream ball flowers from April to June. Distribution: Qld. Hardy in most situations.

**Acacia hylonoma**

Small, spreading tree to 15m with narrow-lanceolate phyllodes to 13cm. Bears yellow ball-shaped flowers in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic. From scarified seed. Propagation: From scarified seed.

**Acacia harpophylla**

Brigalow

Erect or spreading tree to 20m, often suckering. Sickle-shaped grey-green phyllodes to 20cm. Ball-shaped flowers are golden yellow in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW. Propagation: From fresh seed.Scarification not necessary. Cultivation: Useful shade tree for warm climates. Fast growing. *Acacia hylonoma*

Medium-sized tree to 15m, often less in cultivation. Narrow phyllodes often curved, to 1cm. Yellow ball-shaped flowers August to November with several flowers. Distribution: Qld. Propagation: From scarified seed. Cultivation: Fast-growing tree for quick cover. Attractive in flower. *Acacia impexa*

Hickory Wattle

Small to medium sized tree to 12m, often suckering, with light green sickle-shaped phyllodes to 20cm. Bears cream ball-shaped flowers in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas. Propagation: From scarified seed. Cultivation: Very hardy, suitable for bank planting due to suckering habit, which may be accelerated if roots are damaged. Needs full sun. Very prone to leaf gall. (See Chapter 6, p. 67.) *Acacia leucoclada*

ssp. argentifolia

Medium-sized tree to 20m with glaucous, pinnate leaves. Bears yellow ball-shaped flowers in winter. A. l. ssp. leucoclada is smaller and flowers in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW. Propagation: From scarified seed. Cultivation: Outstanding foliage plant. Good off-season flowerer. Suits to most soils, needs sunny position for best flowering. Fast growing and tends to sucker. *Acacia maidenii*

Maiden’s Wattle

Small, spreading tree to 15m with narrow-lanceolate phyllodes to 16cm. Cream rod-like flowers occur in summer. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic. Propagation: From scarified seed. Cultivation: Hardy shade or shelter tree. Most situations suitable. Good timber tree. Flowers are not obvious. Very prone to borer attack in warmer areas. Tasmanian tree form is generally superior. Has become a weed in South Africa. *Acacia hylonoma*

Medium-sized tree to 15m, often less in cultivation. Narrow phyllodes often curved, to 13cm. Bears yellow ball-shaped flowers in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic. From scarified seed. Propagation: From scarified seed. Cultivation: Hardy in most well-watered situations. Accepts some shade. *Acacia mangium*

Mangium

Tall tree with heavy canopy to 30m. Large broad phyllodes to 25cm long. Flowers in lax rods to 10cm. Distribution: Qld, PNG, Moluccas. Propagation: From scarified seed. Cultivation: Outstanding for quick shade in tropical areas. Large phyllodes are feature. Good for heavy soils. *Acacia mearnsii*

(Syn. A. mollissima)

Black Wattle

Medium sized tree to 10m with dark green, bipinnate leaves and fine leaflets. Cream ball-shaped flowers occur in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA. Propagation: From scarified seed. Cultivation: Very hardy, fast-growing in most situations. Commonly grown overseas. Has become a weed in South Africa, where it was the principal source of tanning bark. Often short lived due to borer attack. *Acacia melanoxylon*

Blackwood

Variable, tree reaching 30m in deep gullies but may be shrub size in exposed areas. Phyllodes are lanceolate, to 14cm. Cream ball-shaped flowers occur in spring and other periods. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas, SA. Propagation: From scarified seed. Cultivation: Very similar to *A. mearnsii* but flowers in summer. Distribution: NSW, ACT. *Acacia pendula*

Weeping Myall


Western Myall

Tall shrub or spreading tree to 7m with drooping, linear, grey phyllodes to 5cm. Bears yellow ball-shaped flowers in spring. Distribution: SA, WA. Propagation: From scarified seed. Cultivation: Handsome plant for dry areas. Performs well in Canberra. Full sun and good drainage recommended. *Acacia papuligera* (Syn. *A. souderi*)

Queensland Silver Wattle

From scarified seed. Cultivation: Commonly cultivated. Hardy in most well-drained, sunny situations. In Canberra flowers open over several weeks. Very subject to leaf miner in Sydney but not in Canberra. (See photograph, p. 72.) *Acacia polyophyllum*

Sydney Silver Wattle

From scarified seed. Cultivation: Commonly cultivated. Hardy in most well-drained, sunny situations. In Canberra flowers open over several weeks. Very subject to leaf miner in Sydney but not in Canberra. (See photograph, p. 72.) *Acacia polyophyllum*

Sydney Silver Wattle

From scarified seed. Cultivation: Commonly cultivated. Hardy in most well-drained, sunny situations. In Canberra flowers open over several weeks. Very subject to leaf miner in Sydney but not in Canberra. (See photograph, p. 72.) *Acacia polyophyllum*

Sydney Silver Wattle

From scarified seed. Cultivation: Commonly cultivated. Hardy in most well-drained, sunny situations. In Canberra flowers open over several weeks. Very subject to leaf miner in Sydney but not in Canberra. (See photograph, p. 72.) *Acacia polyophyllum*

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From scarified seed. Cultivation: Commonly cultivated. Hardy in most well-drained, sunny situations. In Canberra flowers open over several weeks. Very subject to leaf miner in Sydney but not in Canberra. (See photograph, p. 72.) *Acacia polyophyllum*

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From scarified seed. Cultivation: Commonly cultivated. Hardy in most well-drained, sunny situations. In Canberra flowers open over several weeks. Very subject to leaf miner in Sydney but not in Canberra. (See photograph, p. 72.) *Acacia polyophyllum*

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From scarified seed. Cultivation: Commonly cultivated. Hardy in most well-drained, sunny situations. In Canberra flowers open over several weeks. Very subject to leaf miner in Sydney but not in Canberra. (See photograph, p. 72.) *Acacia polyophyllum*

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From scarified seed. Cultivation: Commonly cultivated. Hardy in most well-drained, sunny situations. In Canberra flowers open over several weeks. Very subject to leaf miner in Sydney but not in Canberra. (See photograph, p. 72.) *Acacia polyophyllum*
**Acacia prominens**  
Gosford Wattle  

*Handsome foliage; for semi-shade. Decorative fruits make pleasant jam.*  

**Acacia pycnantha**  
Australian Golden Wattle  

*Handsome; for semi-shade. Accepts heavy shade or medium shade; prefers well-drained soil.*  

**Aceratium ferrugineum**  

*Prominent fruits make pleasant jam.*  

**Acronychia acronychioides**  
White Aspen  

*Small, often suckering, tree to 10m, taller in the field. Three to five elliptical leaflets, to 15cm, are attached at one point on the petiole. Bears sprays of small white flowers in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW. Propagation: From cuttings. Cultivation: Grows well in Brisbane; survives in a protected site in Canberra.*  

**Acronychia acidula**  
Lemon Aspen  

*Handsome tree; attractive foliage. Well-composted soil; accepts some shade.*  

**Acronychia imperforata**  
Logan Apple  

*Small, often bushy tree to 9m, usually less. Shiny green leaves are elliptical, to 12cm long. Small, cream, star-shaped flowers*  

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**Aceratium ferrugineum**  

*Resistant to salt spray. Similar to* A. *auriculiformis* *but with longer seed pods.*
Adenanthera pavonina

**CULTIVATION**

Grows well in northern areas, quickly at first, then slower. Fine specimen in Darwin Botanic Gardens. Worth trying in Brisbane and other frost-free subtropical areas. In recent years mature trees have been transported from northern Australia and transplanted successfully in Perth, WA. Large fruits often carved and sold as tourist novelties; flesh has sherbet-like tang.

**PROPAGATION**

From cuttings, which take several months to root. Difficult from seed.

**CULTIVATION**

Handsome screen plant for areas where salt winds prevalent. Hardy in tropical and subtropical areas. Fruits are acid but edible.

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**Acronychia octandra**

*(Syn. Melicope octandra)*

Doughwood

Small to medium sized tree to 15m in cultivation with good spreading crown. Large trifoliolate leaves with elliptical to ovoid leaflets, to 20cm. Small white flowers appear in autumn.

**Distribution**: Qld, NSW.

**PROPAGATION**: From seed.

**CULTIVATION**: Good park tree; handsome leaves. Good specimen in Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

**Acronychia pubescens**

Hairy Acronychia

Small tree to 15m. Dark green, trifoliolate leaves are hairy on the underside, leaflets mostly oblong to 20cm long. Creamy green, star-shaped flowers borne on the previous season’s wood are followed by creamy white fragrant fruits about 2cm diameter. Flowers appear in late summer at Coffs Harbour, but said to be seen at other seasons.

**Distribution**: Qld, NSW.

**PROPAGATION**: From seed and possibly cuttings.

**CULTIVATION**: Useful small tree for well-drained site. Accepts full sun. May be of value as street tree in frost-free areas.

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**Acronychia wilcoxiana**

Silver Aspen

Small tree to 9m with shiny, obovate leaves to 20cm. Leaf tip is rounded or sometimes notched. White summer flowers are followed by deeply furrowed white fruits to 2cm diameter.

**Distribution**: NSW, Qld.

**PROPAGATION**: From cuttings.

**CULTIVATION**: Handsome small tree; ornamental foliage. Prefers well-composted soil. Accepts full sun or part shade.

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**Adansonia gregorii**

*Baobab, Boab*

Tree to 14m with huge, swollen, bottle-like trunk on aging. Deciduous palmate leaves, each leaflet to 13cm. Bears large white flowers with flabby prominent anthers and large ball-like fruits to 10cm diameter. Distribution: WA, NT.

**PROPAGATION**: From seed or from cuttings. Place cuttings of mature branches up to 30cm diameter in final position; do not allow to dry out until established.

**CULTIVATION**: Grows well in northern areas, quickly at first, then slower. Fine specimen in Darwin Botanic Gardens. Worth trying in Brisbane and other frost free subtropical areas. In recent years mature trees have been transported from northern Australia and transplanted successfully in Perth, WA. Large fruits often carved and sold as tourist novelties; flesh has sherbet-like tang.

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**Acronychia imperforata**

seen in autumn are followed by orange-yellow round fruits, about 1cm diameter.

**Distribution**: Qld, NSW, Vic.

**PROPAGATION**: From cuttings.

**CULTIVATION**: Prefers well-composted soil and some shade. Ornamental fruits are borne prolifically. Edible but not palatable. Frost tolerance not tested. Plants known to sucker in cultivation.

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**Acronychia imperforata**

Hairy Acronychia

Small to medium sized tree to 15m in cultivation with good spreading crown. Large trifoliolate leaves with elliptical to ovoid leaflets, to 20cm. Small white flowers appear in autumn.

**Distribution**: Qld, NSW.

**PROPAGATION**: From cuttings.

**CULTIVATION**: Prefers well-composted soil and some shade. Ornamental fruits are borne prolifically. Edible but not palatable. Frost tolerance not tested. Plants known to sucker in cultivation.
hardy and when pruned make neat shrubs. They will grow in most soils and enjoy some shade. Propagation is from cuttings.

**Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus**

Mark Phyllanthus

(Fyn Phyllanthus)

Tall shrub or small tree reaching 5–6m high with shiny pink new growth. Leaves are ovate, to 5cm long. Small pink flowers are borne in axillary clusters on slender stems in spring and summer.

**Distribution**: Qld. Readily grown in frost-free areas in well-composted soil. Suitable for areas of low frost risk. Suitable for areas of low frost risk.

**Phyllanthus insignis**

(Syn. P. gatrinorum)

Erect slender shrub to 2m. Leaves are obovate, to 2cm, in two opposite rows. Flowers are small, green, pendent from horizontal branches, and appear in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic, Tas.

**Phyllanthus gunnii**

This small genus of only three species is superficially like *Melaleuca*, differing mainly in another structure.

**Phyllanthus maxwellii**

Erect or spreading shrub to 2.5m high by 1.5m across. Thickly textured leaves are narrow-elliptical to 6mm. Bears flowers in pinkish mauve globular heads, about 1cm in diameter, in spring. Distribution: WA. From seed or cuttings. Attractive foliage plant.

**Phyllanthus porphyrocephalus**

Rounded shrub to 1m high by 1m across. Small, almost round leaves to 4mm diameter. Globular heads of pinkish mauve flowers, 1.3cm diameter, occur in spring. These are arranged on short lateral branches, about 1.5cm long, giving the appearance of pinnate leaves. Flowers and fruits are insignificant. Distribution: Qld. From cuttings. Distribution: WA. From seed or cuttings. Needs shaded situation in rich, well-composted soil. New growth particularly attractive. Suitable for areas of low frost risk.

**Phyllanthus rhytispermum**

Open shrub or small tree to 5m high by 3m across with elliptical leaves to 3.5cm. New growth is red. White flowers borne in leaf axils in late winter and spring are followed by succulent purple fruits, 1cm diameter. Distribution: Qld. From cuttings.

**Phyllanthus peduncularis**

Coppercups

Eight woody shrubs from Western Australia constitute this small genus. The common name is often generally applied to the genus but should particularly refer to *P. peduncularis*. They are rarely seen in cultivation outside Perth, where they are grown very successfully on the sandy soils of King’s Park. They are very showy, with vividly coloured, open flowers to 2cm diameter. Propagating material is rarely available in the east, perhaps the main reason for their absence there. If Perth is any gauge of cultivation requirements, excellent drainage and full sun would be essential. Grafting onto a related genus, such as the reliable *Calytrix heterogona*, may be one way of overcoming difficulties in cultivation. At King’s Park success with propagation from seed and cuttings has been achieved.

**Pileanthus filifolius**

Summer Coppercups

Slender erect shrub to 1m high by 60cm across with terete leaves to 1cm. Magenta flowers, 2cm diameter, occur in late spring and summer. Distribution: WA. From seed or cuttings. Very spectacular in flower. Frost tolerance not tested.

**Pileanthus limacis**

Coastal Coppercups

Spreading shrub to 1.5m high by 2m across with linear leaves to 7mm. White or pink flowers, 2cm diameter, occur in spring. Distribution: WA. From seed or cuttings. Handsome plant, grows well in semi-shade and makes good display in flower. Well-composted soil recommended.

**Pileanthus peduncularis**

Coppercups

Distribution: WA. From seed or cuttings. Needs well-drained, sunny position. Withstands salt atmosphere.

**Pimelea clavata**

Erect open shrub to 1.5m high by 2m across with linear leaves to 7mm. White or pink flowers, 2cm diameter, occur in spring and summer. Purplish black ellipsoid fruits are about 12mm long. Distribution: Qld. From seed or cuttings.

**Pimelea eae**

This small genus of only three species with the most horticultural value have terminal heads of flowers, often surrounded by prominent coloured bracts. Flower colour varies from white and pink to cream. Requirements for cultivation also vary, with one or two species offering great resistance to successful cultivation. The beautiful Qualup Bell (*P. physodes*) is particularly difficult. Seed of most species is hard to germinate but most are easy to propagate from cuttings.
small terminal clusters occur in spring to early summer. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.


**Pimelea imbricata var. petraea**
(Syn. *P. octophylla* ssp. petraea, *P. petraea*)

Erect shrub to 50cm high by 30cm across with hairy, narrow-ovate leaves to 1.2cm. Bears heads of pale cream flowers, some for most of the year. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.


**Pimelea ligustrina**
(Syn. *P. ({spp. ligustrina})

Open shrub to 2m high by 1.5m across. Leaves elliptical to lanceolate, to 8cm. Heads of white flowers surrounded by 8–10 bracts appear in summer. Three subspecies are recognised. Distribution: SA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION Hardy in most soils and enjoys heavy shade. Reasonably fast growing in well-composted soil. *P. l. hypetica*, also in cultivation, has smaller flower heads surrounded by four bracts.

**Pimelea nivea**
(Syn. *P. {spp. nivea})

Erect open plant to 1.5m high by 1m across. Rounded leaves to 1.5cm are dark green above and silvery below. Stems are covered with white hairs. Terminal heads of white flowers occur in summer. Distribution: NSW.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION Hardy in most soils and partial shade. Variable shrub, prostrate on coastal headlands, or slender, erect plant to 60cm high by 30cm across in forests or heaths. Leaves are variable, linear to obovate, to 2.5cm. Terminal heads of white or rarely pink flowers occur most of the year. Four subspecies are recognised. Distribution: N.S.W., A.C.T., Vic, Tas, SA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION Probably the most common *Pimelea* sp. but not often cultivated. Grow well-drained soil and full sun or part shade. Keep well pruned to encourage branching. Prostrate headland form is available and makes excellent rockery plant. Suckering form found at the Australian National Botanic Gardens may have considerable potential.

**Pimelea physodes**
(HLQW)

**Pimelea spectabilis**
(Syn. *P. {spp. spectabilis})

Erect slender plant to 80cm high by 50cm across. Leaves are obovate to lanceolate, to 3cm. Flowers in large heads, 5cm diameter, white to pink and occasionally creamy, occur in spring. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION Very attractive for rockery or shrub bed. Needs well-composted soil and semi-shade.

**Pimelea rosea**
(Syn. *P. {spp. rosea})

Erect slender plant to 80cm high by 50cm across. Leaves are obovate to lanceolate, to 3cm. Flowers in large heads, 5cm diameter, white to pink and occasionally creamy, occur in spring. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION Reasonably common in cultivation in Sydney and Melbourne. Good drainage and full sun to part shade required. Handsome little rockery plant or for among shrubs.

**Pimelea sericea**
(Syn. *P. {spp. sericea})

Low branching shrub to 70cm. Dark green, broad-elliptical leaves to 1cm, shiny on top, silvery hairs on underside. Terminal heads of white or pink flowers occur in late spring and summer. Distribution: WA.

PROPAGATION From cuttings.

CULTIVATION Very attractive. Good drainage essential; needs full sun or part shade. Often short lived in cultivation.
**Pimelea suaveolens**
Scented Banjine

Erect slender plant to 70cm high by 50cm across. Leaves are mostly elliptical, to 3cm. Large pendent heads of yellow flowers occur in spring. *P. s. ssp. flava* has smaller grey leaves. Distribution: WA.

**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.

**CULTIVATION** Very dainty. Good drainage and partial shade important. Not easy to maintain in cultivation. Frost tolerance not tested.

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**Pimelea sylvestris**

Erect shrub, variable in height, 30cm-2m, with elliptical leaves to 4cm long. Terminal heads of white or occasionally pink flowers are seen in spring. Distribution: WA.

**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.

**CULTIVATION** Excellent drainage in full sun or part shade recommended. Not easy on the humid east coast, where it is probably best grown in a container.

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**Piper umbellatum**
(Syn. *P. subpeltatum*)

**PIPERACEAE**

Erect shrub to 1.5m with several stems. Heart-shaped leaves are soft in texture and to 30cm diameter. Fingers of minute flowers are borne prolifically from the leaf axils in late winter and spring. Distribution: Qld. **PROPAGATION** From fresh seed, which should be barely covered and kept moist.

**CULTIVATION** Spectacular in shady spot in well-composted soil. Will not tolerate drying out or low temperatures. Possible indoor plant, but soil moisture level must remain high. Satisfactory as far south as Coffs Harbour.

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**Pittosporum**

**PITTOSPORACEAE**

See note on genus, p. 598.

**Pittosporum lanceolatum**
(Syn. *Citriobatus lanceolatus*)

Dense, rounded, spiny shrub or small tree to 4m high by 3m across with dark green, glossy, lanceolate leaves to 2.5cm. Branches often end in a spine. Flowers are cream, about 1cm long, in axils. Fruits are orange, about 1cm diameter. **Distribution:** Qld, NSW.

**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.

**CULTIVATION** Very handsome foliage plant, fast growing, good screen plant. Prefers some shade and well-composted soil. Frost tolerance not tested.

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**Pittosporum multiflorum**
(Syn. *Citriobatus multiflorus*)

**Orange Thorn**

Stiff, much-branched, spiny shrub to 1.5m high by 1.5m diameter. Small, round, toothed leaves to 1.2cm. Bears tubular white flowers, 4mm long, followed by edible orange berries to 1cm diameter, in spring and summer. Fruits extend into autumn. **Distribution:** NSW, Qld. **PROPAGATION** From seed or soft-tip cuttings.

**CULTIVATION** Very hardy in well-shaded situation. Most soils are suitable; rich, well-composted soil gives better growth. Frost hardy. Apparently a food plant of the Wonga Pigeon.

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**Pittosporum oreillyanum**

Rounded, much-branched, spiny shrub to 4m high by 2m across with narrow-ovate leaves to 3cm. Bears small cream flowers in spring, followed by attractive yellow-brown fruits with red seeds. **Distribution:** Qld, NSW.

**PROPAGATION** From cuttings.

**CULTIVATION** Appears hardy in cultivation at Canberra. Enjoys shade and rich, well-composted soil. Useful prickly hedge. Relatively slow growing, faster in subtropical areas.

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**Pittosporum revolutum**

Rough-fruited Pittosporum

Rounded shrub to 3m high by 2.5m across with elliptical leaves to 10cm, forming suckers if roots are damaged. Bears yellow flowers in terminal clusters in spring. Fruits are ellipsoid, to 2cm long, orange with red seeds, and occur in summer.

**Distribution:** Qld, NSW, Vic. **PROPAGATION** From seed or cuttings.

**CULTIVATION** Handsome. Hardy in most soils but prefers well-composted soil and full sun to half shade. Canberra is about its limit for frost tolerance. Keep well pruned. Some forms appear to produce larger and more prolific fruits.

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**Pityrodia**

**LAMIACEAE (CHLOANTHACEAE)**

In 2011, *Pityrodia* was revised and several new genera were assigned to cover the variation in the genus. The genera, *Dasymalla*, *Hemiphora*, *Maniria* and *Quoya* are now recognised with *Pityrodia*. *Pityrodia* now consists of 21 Western Australian, Northern Territory and Queensland species with horticultural potential but rarely seen in cultivation. They are soft-foliaged, semi-herbaceous plants with colourful foxglove-like flowers borne along the stems.

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**Planchonia careya**

**LECYTHIDACEAE (BARRINGTONIACEAE)**

*Cocky Apple*

Large shrub or small tree to 15m.

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**Platyllobium**

**FABACEAE**

*Flat Pea*

*Platyllobium* is a small genus, related to *Bossiaea*, of nine species of pea-flower all occurring in eastern Australia. They are small to medium sized shrubs with good-sized yellow and red flowers. Only two are known to be in cultivation, both are...
Platysace APIACAE
About 25 species of Platysace are recognised, all endemic to Australia. They are small to medium woody shrubs with umbels of small white flowers. They are not commonly cultivated and, although generally hardy, have little to offer the gardener. They may be propagated easily from cuttings.

Platysace lanceolata
Variable shrub, usually about 60cm high. Leaves vary from round to lanceolate, 1–4cm long. White flowers, sometimes with a pink tinge, in umbels to 3cm diameter occur in summer. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Hardy in most situations. Sometimes self-seeds in situ. Sometimes self-seeds on separate plants. The form Platysace lanceolata (syn. Dracaena lanceolata) is very variable in size, depending on habitat. Low scrambling shrubs above the tree-line, or tree to 8m in forests. Grey-green leaves, oblong, to 1.5cm. Fruit is succulent, red, 5mm long. Male cones are also attractive. Distribution: NSW, ACT, Vic. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Hardy in most situations. Forms vary but most commonly shrubs to 3m high. Handsome foliage plants. Suitable tub plant.

Platyspace linearifolia
Slender branching shrub to 1m high by 80cm across. Leaves are linear-narrow, to 2.5cm. White flowers in slender umbels occur in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Hardy in most situations. Very fine leaves and slender habit are unusual and quite appealing.

Pleomele angustifolia
(Syn. Dracaena angustifolia)
ASPARAGACEAE (AGAVACEAE)
Native Dracaena
Slender, sparsely branched shrub with long stems to 1m, often sprawling among other shrubs or trees of the rainforest. Narrow leaves are up to 40cm long. Terminal, branching flower sprays, pale green, to 40cm long, appear in spring and summer. Globular fruits are red.

Plumbago zeylanica
Plumbaginaceae
Hardy for frost-free situations. Very fine leaves and slender habit are unusual and quite appealing. Distribution: NSW, ACT, Vic. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Hardy in most situations. Forms vary but most commonly shrubs to 3m high. Handsome foliage plants. Suitable tub plant.

Podocarpus lawrencei
(Syn. P. alpina)
Mountain Plum Pine
Very variable in size, depending on habitat. Low scrambling shrubs above the tree-line, or tree to 8m in forests. Grey-green leaves, oblong, to 1.5cm. Fruit is succulent, red, 5mm long. Male cones are also attractive. Distribution: NSW, ACT, Vic. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Hardy in most situations. Forms vary but most commonly shrubs to 3m high. Handsome foliage plants. Suitable tub plant.

Podocarpus dispermus
Shapely small conifer to 4m in open situation (small tree in rainforest). Broad-linear to oblong leaves to 14cm long by 3cm wide. Red fruits to 3cm long. Distribution: Qld. PROPAGATION From seed. CULTIVATION Grows well at Atherton and Cooffs Harbour. Little known of long-term performance. Handsome foliage plant.

Podocarpus drouynianus
Wild Plum, Emu Bush
Rounded shrub to 2m high by 1.5m across. Leaves are greyish green, linear, to 8cm. Fruits are fleshy, plum-coloured, to 2cm diameter, edible but with little flavour. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Slow growing and shy to fruit, but a good foliage plant. Appreciates considerable shade. Harvested from the field for its decorative, long-lasting foliage, sold as Emu Bush.

Podocarpus spinulosus
Dense rounded shrub to 2m high by 1m across, or sometimes a small tree. Leaves are light green, rigid, broad-linear, to 6cm, with pointed ends. Blue-black fruits are about 1cm diameter. Distribution: Qld, NSW. PROPAGATION From cuttings. CULTIVATION Hardy, withstands salt spray. Good foliage plant. Needs full sun or part shade. Also suitable as tub plant.
**Podolobium ilicifolium**  
(Syn. *Oxylobium ilicifolium*)  
**FABACEAE**  
Holly-leaf Shaggy Pea


**Polyscias sambucifolius**  
(Syn. *Tieghemopanax sambucifolius*)  
**ARALIACEAE**  
Elderberry Panax

A large genus of endemic Australian plants, *Prostanthera* includes about 112 species. They are all small to large woody shrubs, mostly with aromatic foliage and a wealth of flowers in spring. The calyx of *Prostanthera* is characterised by two lobes, an easy way of distinguishing it from its close relations *Westringia*, *Hemigenia* and *Hemianthus*, all of which have five lobes (see illustration). The flower is more or less trumpet-shaped with a prominent lip characteristic of the family. Flower colour varies from white through blues to purple, and the occasional red-, yellow- and green-flowered species is also known. Some mint bushes, particularly *P. ovalifolia*, have been common garden plants for many years. Although they make a fine display, they are rarely considered reliable. In general, they need perfect drainage and near to full sun, but even under these conditions cannot be considered long lived. Grafting onto *Westringia fruticosa* rootstock (see p. 43) enables the genus to be grown in less favourable conditions and increases life span. Ungrafted *Prostanthera* must be regrafted regularly. This is not difficult, as they strike very readily from cuttings. Pruning should be carried out after flowering, throughout the life of the plant.
**Prostanthera aspalathoides**

*Scarlet Mint Bush*

Erect shrub to 2.5m high. Obovate to narrowly ovate leaves to 2.5cm long. Flowers in leafy sprays appear in spring. Terminal sprays appear in spring, each flower about 2cm long, white to pale violet with purple streaks inside and some brownish spots on the throat. Distribution: SA. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: Very difficult to maintain. Not particularly showy. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera behriana**

*Behr’s Mint Bush*

Erect shrub to 2.5m high. Obovate to narrowly ovate leaves to 2.5cm long. Tubular Drill gloves occur in spring to summer. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: Very difficult to maintain. Not particularly showy. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera calycula**

Low open shrub to 50cm high by 50cm across. Leaves are rounded to oblong, to 1cm. Tubular dull red flowers occur in spring. Distribution: SA. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: Very difficult to maintain. Not particularly showy. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera chlorantha**

Green Mint Bush

Slender open shrub to 60cm high by 50cm across. Leaves are ovate, 1–4cm long. Tubular greenish flowers occur in spring to summer. Distribution: SA. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: Of interest mainly to collectors.

**Prostanthera cinerifera**

Erect shrub to 3m high with narrow-ovate leaves to 5cm. Mauve flowers in terminal sprays appear in spring. Status of this species is uncertain as it is close to *P. ovatifolia* and *P. lanceolata*. Distribution: NSW, Vic. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: Very strong aromatic foliage. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera cinerulosa**

*Cut-leaf Mint*

Erect, dense shrub to 2.5m high by 1m across. Leaves are ovate, to 5cm, with a serrated base. Blue flowers in terminal sprays to 10cm, occur in spring. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: Very showy. Appreciates some shade.

**Prostanthera cruciflora**

*Alpine Mint Bush*

Erect, dense shrub to 1m high by 1.5m across. Leaves are variable in shape, to 6mm. Bears mauve flowers at ends of branches in spring. Distribution: SA, ACT, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: As for genus. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera cuneata**

*Erect compact bush to 1m high by 1.5m across. Leaves rounded to 6mm. White flowers with purple and yellow spots in throat occur in summer. Distribution: NSW, ACT, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: As for genus. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.**

**Prostanthera eurybioides**

*Montana Mint Bush*

Erect shrub to 1m high by 50cm across with very small leaves, variable in shape, to 2mm. Bears mauve flowers at ends of branches in spring. Distribution: SA, ACT, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: As for genus. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera eurybioides**

*Alpine Mint Bush*

Erect shrub to 2m high by 80cm across with very small leaves, variable in shape, to 2mm. Bears mauve flowers at ends of branches in spring. Distribution: SA, ACT, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: As for genus. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera cuneata**

*Herbaceous Mint*

Erect shrub to 2m high by 50cm across. Leaves are more or less spathulate with curved, uneven edges, to 1cm. Flowers are tubular, dull red, in spring. Distribution: WA.

**Prostanthera denticulata**

*Rough Mint Bush*

Erect shrub to 2m high by 1m across. Leaves are narrow-ovate, to 2cm, with rough, slightly hairy surface. Bears mauve flowers in spring. Distribution: NSW, Vic. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: Very unreliable on own roots in Canberra but performs well on the east coast.

**Prostanthera discolor**

*Open from NSW with pale violet flowers. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.*

**Prostanthera eurybioides**

*Montana Mint Bush*

Erect shrub to 1m high by 50cm across with tubular dull red flowers. Distribution: SA, ACT, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: As for genus. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera eurybioides**

*Alpine Mint Bush*

Erect shrub to 2m high by 80cm across with very small leaves, variable in shape, to 2mm. Bears mauve flowers at ends of branches in spring. Distribution: SA, ACT, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: As for genus. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera eurybioides**

*Herbaceous Mint*

Erect shrub to 2m high by 80cm across with very small leaves, variable in shape, to 2mm. Bears mauve flowers at ends of branches in spring. Distribution: SA, ACT, Vic, Tas. PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting. CULTIVATION: As for genus. CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera eurybioides**

*Erect shrub to 2m high by 80cm across. Leaves are more or less spathulate with curved, uneven edges, to 1cm. Flowers are tubular, dull red, in spring. Distribution: WA.*
**Prostanthera magnifica**  
**Magnificent Mint Bush**

A  

Erect shrub to 1.5m high by 1m across. Leaves broadly ovate, to 9mm with toothed margin. Hairy leaves to 3cm. Sprays of purple flowers occur in spring and early summer. A plant from Gibraltar Range, NSW, previously thought to be a hybrid species, now considered to be P. caerulea. Distribution: NSW, Vic.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting.  

CULTIVATION Reasonably hardy. Outstanding foliage and feature shrub. Reasonably hardy.  

**Prostanthera nivea var. inducta**  

Erect compact shrub to 2m high by 1m across with silvery grey, linear leaves, to 3cm. Bears blue flowers in spring. Distribution: NSW.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting.  

CULTIVATION Reasonably hardy. Very colourful in flower.  

**Prostanthera nivea**

Snowy Mint Bush

A  

Open shrub to 3m high by 3m across. Leaves are light green, linear, to 4cm. Flowers, usually white, occasionally blue, occur in spring. [See illustration, p. 462.] Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting.  

CULTIVATION Very popular in cultivation.  

**Prostanthera megacalyx**

Erect, slender shrub to 1m high by 50cm across with small, slightly lobed leaves. Very large pale violet flowers occur in spring. Distribution: Qld.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting.  

CULTIVATION Fast growing; regular pruning is vital. Reasonably hardy.  

**Prostanthera ovalifolia**

Common Mint Bush

Erect or spreading shrub to 2.5m high. Leaves are very variable, lanceolate to broadly ovate. Profuse purple flowers in sprays occur in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW, Vic.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting.  

CULTIVATION Dainty, with attractive foliage. Reasonably hardy in good conditions.  

**Prostanthera prunelloides**

Erect shrub to 2m high by 1m across with ovate to almost round leaves to 5cm, often finely toothed. Large blue flowers in terminal sprays occur in spring. Distribution: NSW.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting.  

CULTIVATION Outstanding in flower. Very hardy.  

**Prostanthera ringens**  
**Syn. P. leichhardtii**

Caping Mint Bush

Erect bushy shrub to 1.5m high. Leaves are oblong, ovate, or to 1.5cm. Axillary flowers vary from pale blue, green to yellow and occur in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting.  

CULTIVATION Relatively hardy.  

**Prostanthera rotundifolia**

Round-leaf Mint Bush

Rounded compact shrub to 2m high by 1.5m across. Leaves are rounded, often toothed, to 1cm. Bears profuse purple, or occasionally pink, flowers in spring. Distribution: NSW, Vic, Tas.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting.  

CULTIVATION Outstanding in flower. Reasonably hardy.  

**Prostanthera rugosa**

Hairy shrub to 1m high (occasionally taller) with ovate leaves to 9mm with toothed margins. Violet flowers occur in spring. Distribution: NSW, Vic, Tas.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or by grafting.  

CULTIVATION As for genus.  

**Prostanthera saxicola var. montana**

Spreading shrub to 30cm high by 1m across with dark green, elliptical leaves to 1.2cm. Bears large white flowers with purple stripes in throat in spring. Three other varieties are recognised. Distribution: NSW.  

PROPAGATION From cuttings or...
Shrubs

**Prostanthera striatiflora**

**Streaked Mint Bush**

- Rounded shrub to 1.5m high by 1.5m across. Leaves narrow-ovate to elliptical, to 2.5cm. Bears large flowers, white with striped throat, in spring.
- Distribution: NSW, SA, WA, NT.
- PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting.
- CULTIVATION: Outstanding, suitable for dry areas.
- CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera stricta**

**Mount Vincent Mint Bush**

- Erect or sprawling shrub to 1.3m high. Densely hairy, ovate leaves to 1.3cm. Bears deep violet flowers in spring.
- Distribution: NSW.
- PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting.
- CULTIVATION: As for genus.
- CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera staurophylla**

**Syn. P. teretifolia**

- Compact shrub to 1m or a little more with greyish green, terete leaves, occasionally with 2-5 lobes, to 1.4cm. Bears blue axillary flowers in spring.
- Distribution: NSW.
- PROPAGATION: From cuttings or by grafting.
- CULTIVATION: Pruning is vital to maintain shape.
- CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable.

**Prostanthera walteri**

**Blothy Mint Bush**

- Rounded shrub to 1m high or slightly taller. Leaves are ovate, to 3cm. Bears greenish tubular flowers with purple streaks in spring. Distribution: NSW, Vic.
- PROPAGATION: From cuttings and probably fresh seed.
- CULTIVATION: Accepts full sun, also grows well in shady location. Neat foliage, small flowers are well displayed.

**Psuedanthus pimeleoides**

**PIRRODENDRACEAE**

- Rounded shrub to 1m. Linear to narrowly ovate leaves, 4-15mm long. Male and female flowers on the one plant. Male flowers with conspicuous white, linear segments are crowded towards the ends of branches in spring.
- Distribution: NSW.
- PROPAGATION: From cuttings.
- CULTIVATION: Pretty little plant available commercially. Sandy soil, ample moisture and a little shade recommended.

**Psychotria daphnoides**

**Rubiaceae**

- Shrubs or small tree to 8m high, with leathery, shiny leaves, narrow-elliptical to 8cm, paler on the underside. Fragrant white flowers, about 1cm diameter, are borne in axillary clusters throughout the year. Fruits are black, about 7mm diameter. Distribution: Qld, SA, WA, NT.
- PROPAGATION: From seed or cuttings.
- CULTIVATION: Useful shrub often developing a layered habit, with the flowers facing upwards along the horizontal branches. Not common in cultivation but well worth growing. Needs well-drained soil and partial shade or full sun. Floral perfume is appealing.

**Psydrax odorata**

**Psydrax olficientia**

- Large shrub with strongly perfumed flowers in summer, large thick leaves to 10cm long. Ideal for dry areas.

**Pultenaea acerosa**

**FABACEAE**

- Bacon and Eggs. Bush Peas
- Pultenaea, with about 140 species, is one of the largest genera of the Australian endemic pea-flowers. Its members vary from prostrate to tall, woody shrubs with diverse foliage types. Flowers are usually yellow or yellow and red and in many species are crowded into dense terminal heads. They mostly make handsome horticultural subjects but are not grown as much as they deserve. Good drainage is important and a soil rich in leaf litter is an advantage. Most will accept full sun or partial shade. Flowering usually lasts for a month or six weeks in spring, and in many species the foliage provides year-round interest. Propagation is by scariied seed.

**Pultenaea acerosa**

- Gynostegia
- Grows at 2000m plus.
- Flowers are deep blue and tubular, characters with the leaves.
- Needs full sun and well-drained soil.
- Good for dry areas.
- PROPAGATION: From seed.

**Pultenaea acutifolia**

- Gynostegia
- Grows at 1500m plus. Flowers are deep blue and tubular, characters with the leaves. Needs full sun and well-drained soil.
- Good for dry areas. PROPAGATION: From seed.

**Pultenaea fimbriata**

- Gynostegia
- Grows at 1000m plus. Flowers are deep blue and tubular, characters with the leaves. Needs full sun and well-drained soil.
- Good for dry areas. PROPAGATION: From seed.

**Pultenaea sericea**

- Gynostegia
- Grows at 1500m plus. Flowers are deep blue and tubular, characters with the leaves. Needs full sun and well-drained soil.
- Good for dry areas. PROPAGATION: From seed.
**Pultenaea alattisima**

Erect shrub to 2m high by 1.5m across. Leaves are narrow-oblanceolate, to 1cm. Bears yellow pea-flowers, mainly towards ends of branches, from late winter to summer. Distribution: NSW, VIC. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: Prune annually after flowering. 

**Pultenaea blakeyi**

Slender shrub to 2m high. Leaves oblong, to 3cm. Bears yellow pea-flowers in spring. Distribution: NSW, VIC. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: Prune annually after flowering. 

**Pultenaea daphnoides**

Erect shrub to 3m high by 1.5m across with dark green leaves, obovate, with a flattened end. Yellow and red pea-flowers in terminal heads appear in spring. Distribution: QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: One of the most common bush peas. Accepts reasonable shade. 

**Pultenaea empetrifolia**

Low spreading shrub to 40cm high by 50cm across with terete leaves to 1cm. Yellow and red pea-flowers in heads occur in spring. Distribution: WA. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: As for genus. 

**Pultenaea euchila**

Erect shrub to 3m high by 1.5m across. Leaves are narrow-oblanceolate, to 2cm, with a rounded tip. Yellow pea-flowers about 1.5cm long occur in spring. Distribution: QLD, NSW. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: Reasonably hardy. 

**Pultenaea ferruginea**

Erect shrub to 1m high by 60cm across. Leaves are obovate, 3–15mm long. Yellow pea-flowers are borne near the branch ends in spring. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed and probably cuttings. CULTIVATION: Very colourful in flower. Withstands frost. Good drainage but ample moisture recommended. Tolerates some shade. 

**Pultenaea humilis**

Low spreading shrub to 60cm high by 1m across. Crowded, hairy leaves are narrow-elliptical, to 1.5cm long. Orange and apricot pea-flowers are borne in the leaf axils near the branch ends in spring. Distribution: NSW, VIC, TAS (rare in NSW and TAS). PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: Very showy in flower, foliage is also interesting. Well-drained site in full sun or part shade suitable. Good rockery plant. 

**Pultenaea largiflorens**

Stiff sprawling plant to 1m high by 1.5m across. Light green leaves, narrow, wedge-shaped, 3–10mm. Bears yellow and red pea-flowers in axillary clusters in spring. Distribution: NSW, VIC, SA. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: As for genus. 

**Pultenaea microphylla**

Prostrate or erect plant to 1m high. Leaves are narrow-oblanceolate, 2–9mm, with a blunt end. Bears yellow and red pea-flowers in upper axes in spring. Distribution: QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: Perfectly drained situations. Prostrate forms make useful ground covers. 

**Pultenaea polifolia**

Dusky Bush Pea

Weak, spreading, open shrub to 30cm high by 1m across, occasionally prostrate. Leaves are linear to obovate, 2–30mm. Bears yellow and red pea-flowers in spring. Distribution: NSW, ACT, VIC. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: Best suited for a mucky or wall where branches can hang down. Long-lived in cultivation. Full sun is satisfactory. 

**Pultenaea scabra**

Rough Bush Pea

Erect, sparsely branched shrub to 1m high by 60cm across. Soft pine-like leaves to 4cm. Dense terminal heads of yellow pea-flowers occur in spring. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: One of the best Pultenaea spp. Attractive foliage. Hardy in well-drained, semi-shaded locations. 

**Pultenaea stipularis**

Erect, sparsely branched shrub to 1m high by 60cm across. Soft pine-like leaves to 4cm. Dense terminal heads of yellow pea-flowers occur in spring. Distribution: NSW. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: One of the best Pultenaea spp. Attractive foliage. Hardy in well-drained, semi-shaded locations. 

**Pultenaea spinosa**

(Syn. Pultenaea cunninghamii)

Grey Bush Pea

Erect or rarely prostrate plant. Upright form, with open habit, rarely exceeds 1m in cultivation, often taller in the field. Leaves are light green, rounded, with a pointed tip, 1.2cm long. Orange-red pea-flowers occur in spring. Distribution: QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC. PROPAGATION: From scarified seed. CULTIVATION: Prostrate form available commercially. Attractive shrub.
**Pultenaea subalpina**

*Rosy Bush Pea*  
Erect shrub to 1m high by 70cm across. Leaves terete, to 2cm. Pink pea-flowers occur in spring. Distribution: Vic.  
PROPAGATION From scarified seed. 
Has been grown from cuttings. 
CULTIVATION Rare, difficult to maintain in cultivation. Pink flowers are spectacular.  

**Pultenaea subspicata**  
Low spreading shrub to 80cm high by 1m across. Leaves are linear, to 1cm. Bears yellow and red pea-flowers in terminal heads in spring. Distribution: NSW, ACT, Vic.  
PROPAGATION From scarified seed.  
CULTIVATION As for genus. 

**Pultenaea villosa**  
Pendulous, spreading shrub to 1.3m high by 2m across. Leaves hairy, narrow-oblung, to 6mm. Bears yellow pea-flowers towards ends of branches in spring. Distribution: Qld, NSW.  
PROPAGATION From scarified seed.  
CULTIVATION Hardy. Very attractive habit. Looks well in well-drained soil at pool edge. Compact form with very dense foliage, collected by the author at Anna Bay near Port Stephens, NSW, retains its form in cultivation and makes a fine specimen plant. 

**Quoya dilatata**  
(Syn. *Ptyrodia dilatata*) VERBENACEAE  
(CHLOANTHACEAE) 
Spreading shrub to 30cm by 60cm. Leaves are oval, grey-green, to 2cm, with a rough surface. Tubular orange flowers are borne in spring. Distribution: WA.  
PROPAGATION From cuttings, without mist.  
CULTIVATION Grown in Canberra for some years. Unusual shrub, mainly for collectors. Slightly frost tender. 

**Regelia ciliata**  
MYRTACEAE  
Endemic to Australia, this small genus consists of five showy, woody shrubs, all from Western Australia. In cultivation they have proved moderately hardy in well-drained soil. Flowers, superficially similar to *Melaleuca* but differing in their floral structure, are colourful and well displayed. Foliage is also neat, with leaves arranged in two pairs of opposite rows. Propagation is easy from seed and most have also been grown from cuttings. 

**Rhagodia candolleana**  
(then incorrectly referred to as *R. baccata*)  
CHENOPODIACEAE  
Coastal Saltbush  
Erect shrub to 2.5m high by 2.5m across. Leaves are broad-lanceolate to oval, to 3cm. Terminal flower spikes are followed by red berries most of the year in mild climates. Two subspecies are recognised. Distribution: NSW, Vic, Tas, SA, WA.  
PROPAGATION From cuttings.  
CULTIVATION Very hardy on the coast and inland. Good screen plant. Resistant to salt spray. May be suitable for sand-dune stabilisation. 

**Rhododendron viriosum**  
ERICACEAE  
Low, often spreading shrub to 80cm high by 80cm across. Oval, dark green, thick-textured leaves, to 7cm. Brilliant red trumpet-like flowers, about 5cm across the mouth, occur in spring and summer. Distribution: Qld.  
PROPAGATION From cuttings or seed. 
CULTIVATION It was long believed that Australia had only one native rhododendron, however a second species was described in 1996 and given the name *R. toitiae*. Further research showed that this species was the one described originally by Mueller in 1886 as *R. lochi acea*. This necessitated giving a new name to the species in common cultivation. *R. viriosum* was thus described in 2002 and applies to the one commonly grown. Both species are easy to grow, either in a shaded corner of the garden in well-composted, acid soil or as a pot plant in a peaty mix, which may be brought indoors when in flower. Striking shrub for mild climates. Canberra's winters are just too cold. It will tolerate temperatures to –3°C. 

**Richaea**  
ERICACEAE (EPACRIDACEAE)  
There are 10 species of *Richaea*, nine of them endemic to Tasmania, the other occurring in the Alps of New South Wales and Victoria. They are stiff, woody shrubs or small trees with tapering, stem-clasping leaves, which vary from 1cm to over 1m long. The larger species look more like pines than dicotyledons. The taller species are rarely branched. Flowers are usually pink or white and mostly borne in terminal spikes. As foliage plants they are outstanding. Rarely seen in cultivation, even in their native Tasmania, these interesting plants have great potential.