

## Plant Descriptions & Cultivation Notes for Selected Species

All plants listed are for sale

### ***Acacia aneura***

### **Mulga**

- A large shrub to small upright tree from **5–10 m high**. *Foliage*: Phyllodes grey-green, variable ranging from linear to elliptical. *Flowerheads*: rod-like and bright yellow. Flowers at any time of year, often after rain. *Pods*: oblong and flat 15-50mm long.
- It has an extensive range in all states except Vic and Tas. It is found on hillsides and plains and often forms pure stands.
- A hardy, drought tolerant small shade tree, which can be grown in a variety of soils. Propagates readily from seed.

### ***Acacia jennerae***

### **Coonavittira Wattle**

- An attractive shrub up to **4 m high** with smooth orange-brown bark and bluish-green foliage on pendulous branches.
- Found in sandy spinifex country near salt lakes or on river levees generally in the NW of central Australia.
- A quick growing attractive large shrub. Not long lived (7 – 10 years) but self-propagates readily from root suckers.

### ***Acacia ligulata***

### **Dune Wattle**

- A bushy, rounded shrub **2-4m high x 2-4m wide**. *Foliage*: variable – grey-green or bluish- green. *Flowers*: globular, golden. *Pods*: long, twisted and constricted between seeds.
- Widespread in Central Australia. Common on limestone, near salt lakes or in red sand with spinifex.
- In cultivation: a quick-growing hardy shrub. Grows in a variety of soils. Propagates readily from seed.

### ***Acacia murrayana***

### **Colony Wattle**

- An open shrub or small tree **2 – 5 m tall**, usually suckering to form small colonies which can give a bushy appearance. *Bark*: smooth grey or brown with a whitish bloom. *Foliage*: pale green to blue-green. Phyllodes long, narrow and oblong. *Flowers*: bright yellow.
- A common tree in central Australia in a variety of habitats, often making a showy display along roadsides in the flowering season.
- Quick growing but relatively short lived, but the colony is maintained through vigorous root suckers.

### ***Acacia salicina***

### **Native Willow**

- Fast growing tree 3 – 13m
- Pendulous branchlets with pale yellow flowers
- Naturally occurs along intermittent watercourses, temporary freshwater swamps and claypans.

### ***Acacia undoolyana***

### **Undoolya Wattle**

- A large shrub or small tree from **2 - 6m high**. *Foliage*: broad, sickle shaped, green with a silvery sheen. *Flowers*: large, bright yellow wattle spikes in Winter/Spring.
- This rare plant grows naturally on steep rocky slopes in 3 locations in the East MacDonnell Ranges.
- Little known in cultivation. However, plants growing at Olive Pink Botanic Garden appear to be fairly quick growing and hardy. It flowers annually and propagates readily from fresh seed. Seed for this plant was obtained from plants growing at OPBG.

### ***Apowallastonia stirlingii* subsp. *stirlingii***

### **Sunflower Daisy**

- A small shrub from **0.3 –1m high**.
- *Stems*: rough. *Leaves*: dark green, stiff, rough and often toothed. *Flowers*: yellow daisies.
- Found in rocky gorges and gullies and on hillsides. Can be seen at Standley Chasm.
- A hardy small shrub, which flowers over a long period, particularly after rain.
- Prune lightly, regularly to maintain shape. Propagation by cuttings.

**Bergia henshallii****Bergia**

- Prostrate perennial, forming dense mats to **1 m or more wide**. The stems and leaves have a covering of hairs. *Leaves*: opposite, green to grey-green and have fine teeth on the margins. *Flowers*: solitary in the leaf axils and have 5 white to pale pink petals 3.5-7 mm long.
- An uncommon plant, it occurs in temporary freshwater swamps and claypans, intermittent watercourses and run-on areas, Mulga-dominated red earth plains, and heavy soil plains.
- Propagate from cuttings. May be a good <sup>1</sup><sub>SEP</sub> alternative for lawn areas.

**Cynanchum floribundum****Native Pear**

- A twining shrub about **2 m high**. *Foliage*: heart-shaped pointed leaves. *Flowers*: creamy-white. *Fruit*: Edible when young, green, drying to pale yellow.
- Usually found in or near sandy watercourses, also on sand-dunes, often associated with Sandhill Cane grass.
- Little known in cultivation, but fast-growing and hardy in well-drained soils. Propagates from seed.

**Cyperus exaltatus****Tall Flat -sedge**

- Sedge to 2m tall
- In the top end it usually grows on flood plains. In central Australia grows in sheltered gorges in or on the edge of waterholes.
- Propagate by division of rhizomes.

**Cyperus vaginatus****Flat Sedge**

- Tussock forming perennial **up to 1 m high**. *Spiklets*: rich chestnut brown.
- Found in all mainland states on rocky stream-banks and sandy margins of waterholes.
- A hardy sedge for a moist area in the garden.

**Dodonaea viscosa****Hopbush**

- An erect to spreading shrub from **2 – 4 m high by 1 – 2 m wide**. *Leaves*: broad, bright green and sticky. *Flowers*: insignificant. *Seed capsules*: papery in a variety of colours.
- Usually found in rocky situations on hills and in creeks.
- Propagates from seed. Self-sows readily. Highly decorative when setting seed. Responds to pruning.

**Eremophila sp. Arookara Range**

- A small bushy shrub **1m x 1m**. *Foliage*: grey. *Flowers*: deep lilac.
- Found on a rocky hillside south-east of Alice Springs. Is rare and known only from an area less than 100km radius.
- Little known in cultivation, and may be difficult to establish. Requires open, sunny, well-drained position. Requires regular tip pruning to maintain shape. Attractive shrub for a container.

**Eremophila battii**

- A small open shrub from **.3-1m x .5 – 1m**. *Flowers*: blue.
- A central Australian species which often occurs in spinifex and mulga scrub.
- Little known in cultivation. Can be grown as a container plant. Tip prune regularly to maintain shape.

**Eremophila christophori****Dolomite Fuchsia Bush**

- An erect bushy shrub to **2m x 1.5m**. *Flowers*: blue, tubular
- Found in the MacDonnell Ranges on stony rises.
- A quick growing attractive shrub. Flowers prolifically over a long period. Prune lightly regularly to maintain shape. Propagate from cuttings.

**Eremophila dalyana****Gidgee Fuchsia-bush**

- An aromatic shrub about **1.5 m high**. *Foliage*: narrow, grey-green leaves with a small hook at their tip. *Flowers*: tubular, white.
- A rare plant in central Australia found only in the far north-east of the area where it is usually associated with gidgee scrubs. Considered to have powerful medicinal properties to the Alyawarr people.
- Little known in cultivation. Plant in an open sunny position. Suggest regular light pruning. Propagates from cuttings.

**Eremophila duttonii****Harlequin Fuchsia Bush**

- A medium shrub **1.5-2 m tall**. *Leaves*: narrow, bright green. *Flowers*: tubular, red outside and yellow inside. Large yellow-green pointed sepals persist after flowers fall giving appearance of an extra long flowering period.
- Occurs throughout central Australia, usually on gravelly flats but also in sand or near sand dunes.
- Rarely grown due to difficulty to propagate. Root suckers forming large stands in the wild. Slow growing. Requires an open sunny position.

**Eremophila gilesii****Mulga Fuchsia**

- Small leafy, low-spreading shrub, **0.3 – 1m high x 0.5 – 1m wide**. *Foliage*: narrow, linear leaves. *Flowers*: tubular in shape and mauve to lilac in colour.
- Widespread in Central Australia. It usually occurs on sandy plains and stony ridges in association with mulga.
- Showy, graceful small shrub. Grow in full sun. Flowers prolifically and responds well to pruning. Propagates from cuttings.

**Eremophila glabra****Black Fuchsia**

- A very variable small bushy shrub to **1m x 1m**. *Foliage*: greenish grey. *Flowers*: reddish orange.
- A most widely distributed species, found growing on a wide range of soils, from sandy loams to clay soils in all mainland states.
- Hardy. Tip prune regularly to maintain shape. Propagate from cuttings.

**Eremophila hughesii** (no common name)

- A slender spindly shrub up to **3 m high X 1.5 m wide**. *Leaves*: dark green and fine. *Flower*: pinkish –white.
- Found in the far SW corner of the NT and central WA on rocky hillslopes, on granitic or calcareous, loams usually in mulga woodland or sandy spinifex plains.
- Propagate from cutting. Prefers well-drained soils in full sun or filtered shade. Sensitive to frost. Responds to light pruning.

**Eremophila latrobei****Native Fuchsia (green leaves or grey leaves)**

- A variable shrub up to **1.5 m high x 0.5-1 m wide**. *Foliage*: bright green to dark or grey leaves. *Flowers*: can be pale pink to deep pink or red and are prolific after rain.
- Widespread in central Australia. Can be found in a wide range of habitats but has a preference for rocky areas and hillslopes.
- Prefers a well-drained sunny position. Tip prune regularly to maintain shape. Propagate by cuttings.

**Eremophila latrobei (Yellow Flowers)****Native Fuschia**

- A variable shrub up to **1.5 m**. *Foliage*: bright green. *Flowers*: usually pale pink to deep pink or red but this is a rare yellow-flowering variety, prolific after rain. [SEP]
- A rare variant. [SEP]
- Prefers a well-drained sunny position. Tip prune regularly to maintain shape. [SEP] Propagate by cuttings. [SEP]

**Eremophila maculata****Spotted Emu Bush**

- A dense dark green shrub up to **1.5 m high by 1.5 m wide**. *Flowers*: pink in spring.
- This particular form is a cultivated variety and probably would not be found growing naturally in the Alice Springs area.
- A very hardy, adaptable shrub which thrives in a variety of soils. Requires regular pruning to maintain bushy shape and appearance. Propagate by cuttings.

**Eremophila maculata var. brevifolia****Lipstick bush, Spotted Emu Bush**

- A small to medium dense spreading shrub up to **1.2 m high x 1–1.5 m wide**. *Leaves*: dark green with maroon margins. *Flowers*: profuse deep red almost magenta in winter /spring. Colour variable.
- Found in low lying areas in heavier soils in central Australia.
- A very attractive shrub for any central Australian garden. Must be pruned regularly to maintain shape.

**Eremophila ovata****Krichauff Ranges Fuchsia**

- A small bushy, spreading shrub up to **.6 m high x .6 m wide**. *Foliage*: grey-green, hairy, ovate leaves. *Flowers*: tubular in shape and lilac in colour. Flowers mainly in Spring or after rain.
- This rare plant is restricted to the George Gill, Gardiner and Krichauff Ranges.
- Requires full sun and well drained soils. Root suckers. Prune regularly to maintain bushy appearance.

**Eremophila polyclada****Twiggy Emu Bush**

- An intricate shrub with many branches which interweave forming a dense structure. May grow **2-3m high by 2-3m wide**. *Leaves*: green, alternate, narrow and drop under stress. *Flowers* – white tubular with green to brownish spotting inside. Flowers in summer.
- Found growing on inland flood plains in relatively heavy soils in all mainland states except WA.
- In cultivation: a very reliable species. Tolerates a wide range of soils. Frost tolerant. Prune to control rampant growth. Cuttings strike easily.

**Gossypium australe****Native Cotton**

- A small to medium, slender, erect shrub from **1-1.5 m high**. *Foliage*: hairy, dull green leaves. *Flowers*: hibiscus-like flower, mauve to pink with dark red spot inside at the base.
- Widespread in central Australia growing in a variety of soils and habitats.
- Plant in an open sunny, well drained position. Responds well to hard pruning if it becomes straggly. Propagates from seed.

**Hakea lorea****Long –leaf Corkwood**

- A small tree **to 6m**, often gnarled and twisted. *Bark*: thick, dark, corky-looking. *Leaves*: long (up to 60cm), narrow with a sharp point and grey-green in colour. *Flowers*: large, creamy yellow sweetly scented and loaded with honey.
- Widespread throughout central Australia. Often found on ridges and less commonly found by watercourses and plains.
- Slow growing but a wonderful sight when in full flower. A very hardy species. Propagates from seed.

**Harnieria kempeana**

- A small shrub from **20cm - 60cm high x up to 30cm wide**. *Leaves*: opposite with toothed edges. *Flowers*: pink with white markings in the centre.
- Found in rocky areas, around watercourses and hillsides - most often in sheltered locations or on the southern side of hills.
- An excellent rockery plant which, once established, is quite hardy. Do not let plant dry out during establishment. Prune regularly to keep compact and encourage flowering. Flowers over a long period, responding to rain but mainly in winter/spring. Good tub plant. Propagates easily from cuttings.

**Melaleuca faucicola (syn. Callistemon pauciflorus)****Desert Bottlebrush**

- Medium to large shrub up to **3m high x 3m wide**. Often much taller and more slender in its natural habitat as it reaches for the light from deep gorges. *Flowers*: reddish-pink with yellow stamens standing out beyond the petals forming rather delicate looking brushes. There is also a cream coloured flower form.
- Found in deep rocky gorges, beside waterholes in the West MacDonnell Ranges.
- A very worthwhile shrub for central Australian gardens where there is extra summer water – susceptible to borer if drought stressed. Bird attracting. Its bushy habit makes it an ideal screening plant. Moderately quick growing but requires deep watering during summer. It flowers profusely over a long period in Winter/Spring.

**Olearia macdonnellensis**

- A rare, aromatic shrub to **1.5 m high**. *Leaves*: green, varnished, toothed. *Flowers*: White daisy flower heads, February - October.
- Occurs along rocky watercourses and below steep rocky slopes. It appears to favour growing under the canopy of trees.
- Confined to the MacDonnell Ranges.
- **Conservation status**: Australia: Vulnerable Northern Territory: Endangered.

***Pittosporum angustifolium*****Native Apricot, Weeping Pittosporum**

- Shapely, upright, usually single-trunked tree **6–10 m high** with pendulous branches. *Leaves*: bright green. *Flowers*: small, pale yellow. *Fruit*: orange containing sticky red seeds.
- Found throughout central Australia but not common. Grows in woodlands, near rivers or on foothills.
- Propagates from seeds – often spread by birds. Not edible, in spite of the name.

***Prostanthera striatiflora*****Striped Mint-bush**

- A shrub **1-2 m high x 1-1.5m wide**. *Foliage*: glossy green leaves emitting a pleasant odour when crushed.. *Flowers*: white flowers with purple striations in the tube.
- Found throughout central Australia mostly on hillslopes.
- An attractive shrub for a central Australian garden. Needs regular light pruning to maintain shape. Not very long lived. Propagates from cuttings.

***Ptilotus whitei***

- A small rigid bushy perennial shrub about 50cm high. *Foliage*: bluish-green. *Flowers*: mauve.
- Grows on creek flats and sandstone hills.
- Little known in cultivation. Propagates from cuttings.

***Radyera farragei*****Bush Hibiscus**

- A bushy shrub to **1.3 m x 1.1 m**, covered in hairs which make it rough to touch. *Foliage*: large rounded leaves, green above & whitish below. *Flowers*: large deep pink hibiscus-like.
- Found in central Australia on roadsides, creek levees and floodouts.
- Showy plant for the garden. Responds to extra water in the summer. Prune back after flowering. May be frost sensitive.

***Senna notabilis*****Cockroach Bush**

- Hairy small shrub/herb **0.3-1.5 m tall**. *Flowers*: yellow. *Pods*: cockroach-like in appearance.
- Widespread and common in central Australia. Grows in sandy, clayey and rock soils in a variety of situations. Often on roadsides or other disturbed areas.
- Little known in cultivation. Short-lived.

***Ventilago viminalis*****Supplejack**

- A small tree to about **5 m high**, somewhat vine-like when young with several intertwined trunks when mature. *Foliage*: drooping bright green leaves. *Flowers*: pale green. *Seeds*: have a single prominent wing.
- Found widely in central Australia in woodlands and low hills.
- Slow growing, but an interesting small tree for the garden. Propagates from seed.