

HERBS & WILDFLOWERS

Acaena novae-zelandiae (Rosaceae)

Bidgee Widgee

Size: Prostrate herb.

Flowering: September-December.

Habitat: Widespread in grassland, open forest and coastal heath.

Description: Perennial, creeping herb with dark green notched leaves. Flowers on short stalks turn into balls of seeds with small hooks that function similar to Velcro. NOTE: This plant is a valuable food source for the Orange-Bellied Parrot.

Propagation: Seed germinates readily without treatment in about 3-4 weeks.



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Actites megalocarpus (Asteraceae)

Dune Thistle

Size: To 60cm high.

Flowering: September-June.

Habitat: Primary dune scrub and coastal cliffs.

Description: Erect fleshy perennial herb usually forming an open clump. Variable thick glossy oblong stem clasp leaves with prickly teeth. Produces yellow daisy type flower heads on a long upright stem. Requires well-drained or sandy soil.

Propagation: By seed or division



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Ajuga australis (Lamiaceae)

Austral Bugle

Size: To 30cm high.

Flowering: September-February.

Habitat: Valley and dry sclerophyll forest and red gum woodland.

Description: Erect or spreading perennial herb with a basal rosette of velvety, grey-green toothed leaves to 12cm long and erect spikes of purple tubular flowers. Requires well-drained soils and is tolerant of dry periods once established. A decoction made from leaves was used by Aboriginal people for sores.

Propagation: By seed, cuttings or division.



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Apium prostratum subsp. *prostratum* var. *filiforme* (Apiaceae)
Sea Celery

Size: Prostrate.

Flowering: November-January.

Habitat: Scattered along the coast, also inland, bordering saline and fresh waterways.

Description: Biennial or perennial trailing herb, leaves divided into 3-5 leaflets. Inflorescence is a conspicuous umbel of white, cream or green flowers followed by globular fruits. Requires well-drained soils.

Propagation: Propagated by seed.



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Arthropodium milleflorum (Liliaceae)

Pale Vanilla Lily

Size: Flower stem to 1m.

Flowering: September-March.

Habitat: Riparian scrub, damp sclerophyll forest and grassy low open forest.

Description: Tufted perennial herb with dark green grass-like leaves to 30cm long. Pale pink, pale mauve or white flowers are formed in clusters on leafless stems to 1m. Requires moist clay soils. Grows well in containers or in mass plantings. Plants die down in summer.

Propagation: By seed or division of tuberous rootstock.



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Arthropodium strictum (Liliaceae)
(syn. *Dichopogon strictus*)

Chocolate Lily

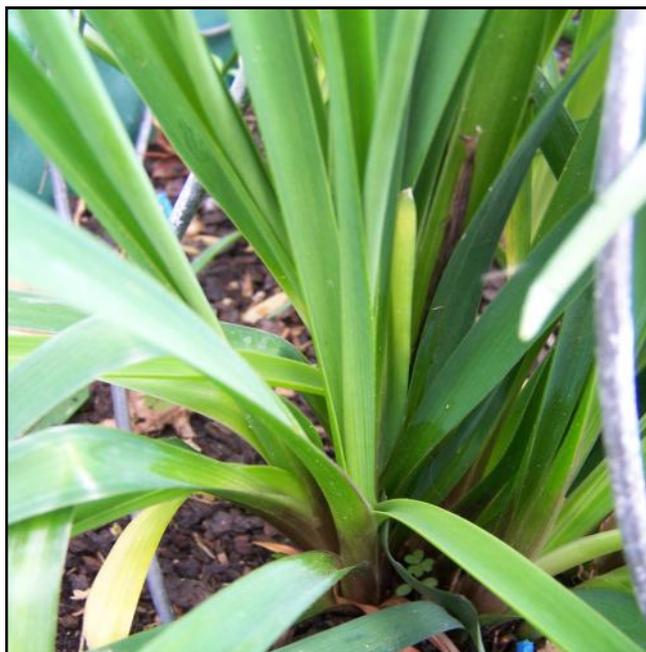
Size: Flower stem to 1.2m.

Flowering: October-December.

Habitat: Locally abundant, particularly in plains grassland and woodland.

Description: Tufted plant with tuberous roots and grass-like linear leaves. Flower stalk erect, usually branched, flowers deep pink or mauve and chocolate scented.

Propagation: Seed has a 2-3 month after-ripening period. Seed gives good germination and a medium seed life. Higher temperatures inhibit germination. Germinates in 4-6 weeks. Also by division of tubers..



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Bossiaea prostrata (Fabaceae)

Creeping Bossiaea

Size: Sparse prostrate shrub.

Flowering: October-December.

Habitat: Wide-spread, mainly in moister sites in coastal heath and open-forest.

Description: Leaves variable, circular to narrow-ovate or oblong in shape.

Propagation: By seed which has a hard coat and should be treated with hot water. Seed has long storage life and will usually germinate in 2-4 weeks.



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Bulbine bulbosa (Liliaceae)

Bulbine Lily

Size: To 50cm high.

Flowering: September.

Habitat: Widespread in plains grassland, woodland and dry sclerophyll forest in moist well-drained soils.

Description: Tufted usually tuberous perennial, onion-like leaves to 30cm long and spikes of fragrant, yellow flowers.

Propagation: Seed, which has 2-3 month after-ripening period, medium seed life and usually good viability, will germinate in 3-5 weeks. Tubers can also be divided.



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Burchardia umbellata (Liliaceae)

Milkmaids

Size: Flower spike to 50cm.

Flowering: September-December.

Habitat: Widespread and common in plains grassland, sclerophyll woodland and forest and open forest.

Description: Grass-like pale green leaves to 20cm, white to light pink flowers in umbels on erect stems.

Propagation: From seed with a 2-3 month after-ripening period and high viability.



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Carpobrotus rossii (Aizoaceae)

Karkalla/ Pigface

Size: Prostrate.

Flowering: September- January.

Habitat: Common along the Victorian coast on cliffs and dunes growing in sandy soil.

Description: Trailing perennial with thick succulent green leaves. Flowers are mauve with white and yellow centre. Fruit (left) is edible.

Propagation: Seed has good viability without treatment. Cuttings strike easy.



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Dianella tasmanica (Liliaceae)

Tasman Flax-lily

Size: Leaves 60cm to 1m.

Flowering: September–February.

Habitat: Common in wet sclerophyll forest and gullies.

Description: A clump forming plant with strap-like dark green leaves, pendulous blue starry flowers with contrasting anthers displayed above the foliage.

These are followed by oblong, blue shiny berries.

Propagation: By seed that is fresh. Germination can be variable. Soak seed in mild soapy water or give a light scarification with sandpaper. Clumps can also be divided.

