

SMALL SHRUBS

Acacia verticillata subsp. *ovoidea* (Mimosaceae)

Ovoid Prickly Moses

Size: Small prickly prostrate shrub.

Flowering: July to November.

Habitat: Occurs along the southern coastline particularly at Lake Gillear, near Warrnambool.

Description: Phyllodes often flattened and very sharp, green and needle-like. Flowers bright yellow are round or egg shaped on little or no stalks. Requires moist soil for best results.

Propagation: By seed, needing hot water treatment or scarification. Germination usually occurs within 2-4 weeks.



SMALL SHRUBS

Acrotriche serrulata (Epacridaceae)

Honey-pots

Size: 30cm high.

Flowering: June-September.

Habitat: Widely distributed in a variety of habitats.

Description: Low shrub with small narrow-lanceolate leaves to 7mm. Bears green tubular flowers, 5mm long with tasty nectar, in small spikes near base of shrub, followed by small globular drupes.

Propagation: By cuttings with great difficulty.



Photo left: K. Vlcek.

Others: K. Sparrow.



SMALL SHRUBS

Amperea xiphioclada var. *xiphioclada* (Euphorbia)

Broom Spurge

Size: 30-80cm.

Flowering: September-February.

Habitat: Tea-tree heath and dry sclerophyll forest.

Description: Wiry shrub with rigid angular stems arising from a woody rootstock. Foliage is smooth dark green and narrow to 20mm long. Bears clusters of insignificant brown and cream flowers at intervals along the stem. Requires moist well-drained soils, a useful plant for landscaping in creating a natural bush appearance.

Propagation: By seed or cuttings.



SMALL SHRUBS

Astroloma conostephioides (Epacridaceae)

Flame Heath

Size: Low shrub to 1m.

Flowering: July-February.

Habitat: Common and widespread, particularly in heathland on rocky and sandy sites.

Description: Prickly shrub, leaves stiff, sharp-pointed and dark green. Flowers are a spectacular lustrous scarlet red, occasionally white in colour.

Propagation: Difficult to grow by seed as it has a complex dormancy. Storage of seed in dark for three months can improve germination. Also by cracking seed case and use of soil from under parent plant can help. Cuttings are also difficult, use firm young growth.



SMALL SHRUBS

Astroloma humifusum (Epacridaceae)

Cranberry Heath

Size: Prostrate to 70cm.

Flowering: Autumn.

Habitat: Common and widespread, particularly in heathy to grassy woodland and open-forest.

Description: A variable species in habit, leaf shape, colour and size of flowers. Leaves 5-18mm long, flowers red, fruit succulent and green when ripe.

Propagation: Difficult to grow by seed as it has a complex dormancy. Storage of seed in dark for three months can improve germination. Also cracking seed case and use of soil from under parent plant can help. Cuttings are also difficult, use firm young growth.



SMALL SHRUBS

Atriplex paludosa (Chenopodiaceae)

Marsh Saltbush

Size: To 1m high x 1-2m wide.

Flowering: December-February.

Habitat: Saltmarsh and tidal flats.

Description: Open silvery-grey shrub with scaly ovate to oblong leaves to 25mm long.

Plant is dioecious, male flowers are in terminal spikes (above right), female flowers are in leaf axils. Requires boggy, saline soils. Good plant for saline areas.



SMALL SHRUBS

Comesperma calymega (Polygalaceae)

Blue-spike Milkwort

Size: 30-50cm.

Flowering: October-January.

Habitat: Tea-tree heath.

Description: Dwarf erect shrub with thick elliptic to lanceolate leaves to 20mm long. Produces dense terminal racemes of small blue flowers. Requires well-drained soils.

Propagation: By seed or cuttings



SMALL SHRUBS

Comesperma polygaloides (Polygalaceae)

Small Milkwort

Conservation Status: v.

Size: To 60cm

Flowering: October-February.

Habitat: Plains grassland, red gum woodland.

Description: Small slender shrub with narrow bluish-green leaves and profuse terminal racemes of purple or mauve flowers.

Requires well-drained soils, suitable for growing in containers.

Propagation: By seed or cuttings.

Photo: L. Weedon.



SMALL SHRUBS

Correa alba var. *pannosa* (Rutaceae)

White Correa

Conservation Status: r.

Size: Shrub prostrate to 1m.

Flowering: Mainly June-October.

Habitat: Usually found on coastal dunes and cliffs.

Description: Greyish-green shrub, leaves opposite, thick and rounded, dull green above, rusty-grey below. Flowers star-like and usually white. A pink form (right) from Childers Cove has been registered by Warrnambool & District Society for Growing Australian Plants as *Correa* 'Western Pink Star'.

Propagation: Easily grown by cuttings or by seed.



SMALL SHRUBS

Correa reflexa var. *reflexa* (Rutaceae)

Common Correa

Size: Prostrate to 1m high.

Flowering: May-October.

Habitat: Common and widespread in a variety of habitats from sandy heath to dry open forest.

Description: Variable, from prostrate to upright shrub. Leaves vary from round to narrow ovate, green smooth or hairy above, with short hairs beneath. Bell-shaped flowers red or green or combination. A green form and group floral emblem (right) has been registered by Warrnambool & District Society for Growing Australian Plants as *Correa* 'Granny's Grave'. A pink form from Portland will be registered as *Correa* 'John Amor' in honour of the popular conservationist who passed away in 2010.

Propagation: Easily grown by cuttings or by seed.



SMALL SHRUBS

Epacris impressa (Epacridaceae)

Common Heath

Size: To 1.2m.

Flowering: March–October

Habitat: Common and widespread in southern heaths and heathy understory.

Description: Erect or spreading shrub, leaves rigid, spreading and sharp-pointed. Flowers, white, pink or red tubular or bell shaped.

Propagation: Easily grown by cuttings. Seed will germinate readily without treatment but leaching of seed for several weeks may improve germination.

