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WILDFLOWERS IN VICTORIA

This issue has been prepared by Victorian enthusiasts. What is so little realised is the range of growing conditions in Victoria and their severity in some areas. The plants they recommend have been successfully proved in similar conditions in N.S.W. and are quite hardy in temperate areas.

The principal wildflower areas of Victoria are given opposite, and latter pages describe many of the plants of floral value. For those who would like to know more of the wildflowers in these areas we recommend the book "Flowers and Plants of Victoria", see pp. 144, or previous issues of this periodical, where hundreds are described and illustrated.

GROWING WILDFLOWERS

The emphasis in this issue is the cultivation of wildflowers in home gardens. The hundreds recommended also include some from other parts of Australia that have proved hardy under garden cultivation.

"Landscaping For a Bush Garden", pp. 146, advises on the establishment of a garden.

"Planning a Native Garden", pp. 165, gives hints on the selection of plants.

"How to Transform a Conventional Garden Into a Native One", pp. 166.

"A Wildflower Garden", pp. 147, introduces and illustrates a garden for your guidance.

"Small Plants for the Garden", pp. 147, describes many hardy plants suitable.

"Birds in the Native Garden", pp. 161, invites you to share the company of birds.

"Natives for Window Boxes", pp. 142. Gardening in miniature.

"Acacia for Melbourne Gardens", pp. 154. Wattles that will suit your garden.

"Boronia and other Rutaceae", pp. 159 is supp. by "Victorian Boronia", pp. 160.

"Correa", pp. 156 describes small easily grown plants with bell shaped flowers.

"Emu Bush—*Eremophila* in Northern Victoria", pp. 184. Dry area gardening.

"Eucalypts for Southern Victorian Gardens", pp. 163.

"Grevillea—Victorian *Grevillea* Under Garden Conditions", pp. 169. Spider flowers?

"Hakea—As Grown In Melbourne Gardens", pp. 167. Shrubs with unique flowers.

"Hibbertia—Their Cultivation", pp. 175. Floriferous, yellow flowered small plants.

"Melaleucas In Melbourne", pp. 180. Hardy easily grown shrubs of great value.

"Mint Bushes—Growing Mint Bushes in Melbourne", pp. 170. Beautiful flowers, fragrant bush.

"Orchids—Cultivation of *Chiloglottis*", pp. 172. Terrestrial orchids for pot culture.

COVER—*Prostanthera aspalathoides*, "Scarlet Mint Bush" see p. 171.

NATIVES FOR WINDOW BOXES

by M. Fisch

About six years ago I was asked to recommend Native Plants for a window-box, facing west. It was only 36" x 18" and 3' deep, built in bricks. I enquired in a Native nursery and was told to forget it, to plant petunias or geraniums. I tried to forget that, I mean the petunias, and went ahead. We lined the box with heavy black polythene, filled the bottom with small stones, taking care to have some holes in the side to get rid of excess water; added some coarse sand and charcoal and topped it with a mixture of mountain soil, black sand and local clay soil. We let it settle and after much consideration planted one each of *Grevillea bitermata* and *G. lavandulacea* and two *Lechenaultia biloba*. You should have seen them grow! They were planted around Easter and *G. lavandulacea* and the *Lechenaultias* bloomed the next spring. *Grevillea bitermata* flowered in the second year. From then on they just grew and grew.

The *Lechenaultia* had to be replaced in the third year—and even then were ousted by the vigorous *Grevilleas*. After 6 years also *G. bitermata* had to be removed as it was growing too big, the roots nearly pushing the bricks out. It has been replanted now with only *Grevillea lavandulacea* and *Dampiera rosmarinifolia*, both doing well.

(Continued on page no. 174)

FLORAL REGIONS OF VICTORIA

by Jean Galbraith

The flora of Victoria is really quite distinctive and beautiful with its range of species, those in the north having, naturally enough, affinities with those of southern N.S.W., in the west, with eastern S.A. and in the south and alpine areas, with Tasmania.

We can divide the state broadly into 10 floral regions, starting from the north-west corner with its characteristic Mallee flora. Here mallee eucalypts, with several trunks rising fan-like from a thick "mallee root" or lignotuber, rarely grow tall. Leaves crowded toward the top of the branches give each other some protection from drying winds which pass harmlessly through the lower almost leafless branches. Wattles in the mallee are colourful, varied and seldom tall, with phyllodes either small, spine-like or leathery, and the understorey is quite bright over a wide flowering season. Shrubs with small or hairy leaves like the "Scarlet Mint Bush", *Prostanthera aspalathoides* (front cover) and the "Pink Velvet-bush", *Lasiopetalum behrii* and those with thick leaves like the desert living "Emu Bushes" are suited to dry conditions. So in their different ways are the "Salt-bushes", the "Noon flowers", the many annuals, everlastings, "Sunrays and Poached-egg Daisies" and plants like *Swainsona* and "Golden Pennants" (*Loudonia*) which have very long taproots and little foliage above ground in summer.

South of the Mallee and spreading eastwards into the Goldfields area of ironbarks and bright-flowered undershrubs is the grassland of the Wimmera Plains broken by the sandstone scarps of the Grampians, home of a varied and beautiful flora. The exciting wildflower area includes endemic species such as *Grevillea dimorpha* and "Showy Bauera", *Bauera sessiliflora*.

The Grampians flora runs into that of the South Coast near Portland. The basalt plains of the Keilor lie between the Portland area and the Brisbane Ranges near Bacchus Marsh more or less correspond to the Wimmera Plains. South of them is the luxuriant forest of the Otway Ranges.

East of the plains the Dividing Range (of which the goldfields region forms part of the foothills) rises into the main Alpine area of Victoria with the outlying Baw Baw plateau running down towards the Gippsland Plains, a pastoral area of red gum plains north of the Strzelecki Ranges, and the richly varied coastal plains with typical heathland vegetation to the south.

The southern parts of the divide are clothed with wet sclerophyll forest—Alpine and Mountain Ash with other tall forest trees, many ferns and other vegetation characteristic of areas of high rainfall but above 4000 to 4500 ft. the vegetation is typically subalpine to alpine with high plains and sphagnum bogs (where not destroyed by grazing) where countless daisies and dwarf shrubs and perennials bloom in summer, the alpine spring.

South of the alpine region the Eastern Coastal Plains from Marlo to Mallacoota have much in common with N.S.W. coastal heathlands. This floral carpet country so vulnerable to development just behind the dunes is rich in flora. Will we be allowed to preserve it?

For a pictorial presentation of these regions see the next page.

AUSTRALIAN FLORA IN COLOUR



Flowers and Plants of VICTORIA

by Cochrane, Fuhrer, Rotherham & Willis

Correa reflexa—see page 156

Below—*Calectasia cyanea*
"The Blue Tinsel Lily"



Above—"Mountain Gentian", *Gentianella diemensis*.
The only Australian species of this genus, found
in grasslands of the Alps and to lower elevations.

Reproduction of the colour jacket (reduced in size) of the book of the above name).

For anyone interested in the wildflowers of Victoria the above is really a must. It may be obtained from the Editor by mail for \$9.95 plus 25c postage. The 543 colour plates with very good descriptions by J. H. Willis makes it remarkable value. The colour plates are grouped into the floristic areas mentioned by Jean Galbraith on the previous page, for those more interested in a specific area. It also makes it easier for those who love to ramble through the bush.

Alternatively past issues of "Australian Plants" have illustrated hundreds of Victorian wildflowers in this issue together with advice on their propagation and cultivation.



Photography by P. Ellis

KUNZEA PARVIFOLIA — VIOLET KUNZEA

This healthy shrub, 2-3 ft., makes a colourful display on granite hillsides of the upper Murray. Easily grown from seed and readily cultivated it requires similar treatment to the closely related *Melaleuca* described and illustrated on page no. 180.

LANDSCAPING FOR A BUSH GARDEN

by N. Kemble

There are three basic groups or elements used in landscaping:

1. The inanimate raw materials of logs (plenty of them), rocks (large and small), coarse sand, maintain soil, gravel and bush litter (dead leaves, twigs, etc.).
2. Growing things you decide to plant, ranging in size and shape from trees through shrubs to prostrate ground cover.
3. A generous spicing of personal characteristics, like imagination, observation, patience and enthusiasm.

Of all these things, probably imagination and observation are most important. Make a point of observing, really studying, the natural bush character; how the combination of logs, rocks, etc., harmonise in "the bush".

Now use your imagination to transfer that character to your suburban block. First of all, think of planting areas (or beds if you prefer) and define them with the logs. Walk around among them and get the "feel" of it.

Strive for a balance between the elements—sometimes referred to as "spatial composition". Leave room for walking and for (later on) contemplation. It is more important for you to enjoy the garden than a passer-by.

Keep the shape informal. Avoid straight lines like the plague.

Think about levels. If your block has a natural fall, exploit it. If not, try to create different levels.

Once you get the general pattern established, build up the "beds" by digging some of the topsoil off the walking area and throwing it among the logs, together with equal parts of mountain soil and sand, topped off with liberal doses of bush litter.

Now stop for a while and think. Think about what you will be planting and think again about shapes. If necessary, carry out minor adjustments or refinements to your composition. The pause also allows the beds to settle.

If you like rocks, a few really big ones should have been included in your layout. Put them in before anything else while you still have room to move. Set them into the ground a bit so they look as though they've always been there. Smaller rocks can be added when you start planting. Any moss on the rocks should be shown to advantage. Bury any broken edges.

Now add your trees and shrubs as the third dimension to your landscape. Again (apart from the practical aspects) think about forms, shapes and proportion. A group of three slender Eucalyptus against shrubby Melaleucas with some prostrate Grevilleas at their feet makes a pleasing composition. The combinations are almost endless—limited only by your imagination.

For paths, use coarse sand, scoria or fine gravel. Flat rocks make good natural steps. Used railway sleepers (if you can get them) are also useful. Never, never use concrete.

Although the initial work in establishing a landscaped bush garden is greater than for conventional lawns and shrubs, your future garden will be more relaxing, with minimum maintenance, ecologically sound and very Australian.

The joy of strolling through a bush garden, smelling the gum leaves, feeling the textures of rock and bark, hearing the rustle of leaves overhead and underfoot, with shy but beautiful flowers of every colour to admire, is a truly wonderful, truly Australian experience that can so easily be yours.

A WILDFLOWER GARDEN

SMALL PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN by T. Stitt

The clay soils of eastern and northern Melbourne offer considerable opportunity to grow a variety of small plants. Some Western Australian plants will probably require raised beds with a sand and mountain soil mixture (50:50 or more sand). But most small plants will grow successfully provided there is about a foot of topsoil, a sunny position and water does not collect. Also most plants seem to benefit from having a mulch, say of hardwood shavings, bush litter, compost or cracked stone.

An attractive way to set off small plants is to grow them in a raised bed with small tree trunks as the retaining walls, rocks embedded in heaps and the soil mixture added. Some people instead of spacing their plants, plant a number in the one hole and this can look very pleasing, besides providing mutual protection.

Many small plants, especially in a new garden will require staking to prevent wind damage. Three small stakes diagonally around the trunk or through the branches will do this. After watering in, most plants need regular deep watering for their first summer (say weekly) but after that only on cool days after a dry spell. Probably the best time to prune is April, May, September and October. Most plants benefit from pruning, two-thirds of their new growth off, after flowering.

GROUND COVERS—To conserve surface moisture and give a pleasing appearance to the ground surface of the garden there are a number of creepers and ground hugging plants well worth growing.

Kennedy—*K. prostrata*, a creeper with a big red-orange flower, will cover about five feet and likes a shavings mulch. *K. rubicunda* with dull rusty flowers is much more vigorous and likes a damp, sunny position. *K. eximia* is a neater, sligher creeper that also likes mulch and sun.

Two local creepers are *Hardenbergia violacea* with rich purple flowers and *Billardiera scandens* with its neat, serrated yellow bells.

Damper positions are suitable for *Clematis aristata*, a creeper with long variegated serrated leaves and big cream flowers; *Mazus pumilio*, a slow spreader with blue and white flowers and maidenhair fern, *Adiantum aethiopicum*, for a shaded area.

Suckering plants for damp, open positions—*Viola hederacea* makes an impressive display with dozens of its blue and white flowers standing up at you in a four foot area. *Mentha australis* is also capable of covering a large area and the strong menthol flavour of its crushed leaves is overpowering. Other suckering plants for damp positions are *Brachycome multifida*, a small pink-flowered daisy with dainty leaves, the ferny-leaved *Cotula filicula*, *Isotoma fluviatilis*, with blue-tinged flowers, *Scleranthus biflorus*, an intriguing green cushionary mass and the yellow flowered *Goodenia hederacea*.

Dichondra repens is a plant that has possibilities in that it can be walked on and even mown and can be used to replace grass, especially for paths.



Photography by P. N. Ellis

DAMPIERA LANCEOLATA—"Grooved Dampiera"

Dampieras have an attractive mass of blue flowers, which last for several months. *D. cuneata* and *D. diversifolia* sucker freely. *D. rosmarinifolia* and *D. trigona* var. *lateolata*, with its shaped stems do well.

Scaevola—"Fan Flowers" are similar, but may not be quite as hardy. Most have blue to violet flowers. Some to try are *Scaevola striata*, *S. macrocarpa* and *S. ramossissima*.

A WILDFLOWER GARDEN



SMALL PLANTS THAT HUG THE GROUND

For sunnier positions, *Pultanea peduncularis* covers four feet or more and has a rich mass of bacon and egg flowers. For a hot position, *Jasminum lineare* provides a strong but not too far reaching perfume.

Wahlenbergia consimilis has a definite, light blue flower and is good for a hot, dry position. This bluebell flowers for a long time over summer, then dries out and reappears in spring.

Disphyma australe, the horned-leaved moonflower, laces quietly between shrubs and has pink flowers in late spring.

Hemiandra pungens, with its spotted pink mint-bush like flowers grows steadily to about four feet provided it has sun and a shavings mulch. A quicker ground cover is *Frankenia pauciflora* which has neat pink flowers and tiny grey foliage. It prefers a slightly shaded position.

Eutaxia microphylla, a prostrate form, covers about a yard and has rich bacon and egg flowers. It does well in a dry position.

Astroloma humifusum, the red-flowered "Cranberry Heath", is a slow creeper, good for covering rocks. Plants from drier inland areas have a richer foliage.

Lechenaultia are among Western Australian plants that do well in raised sandy beds, especially against a north-facing wall. They can be grown in pure sand but need to be staked. More species are being grown now, with some degree of success—you need to be prepared to replace them after several seasons. They grow readily from cuttings. Besides *L. biloba*, with its different forms of blue flowers and *L. formosa* with its red flowers, you might like to grow *L. formosa aurea*, a long-flowering yellow form and *L. linarioides*.

Poa australis is one plant that has a wide appeal. This native grass grows in clumps; the alpine form has a striking blue-grey colour.

Lily-like plants can be used to provide variety of flowers and foliage. They are hardy and adaptable. *Dianella tasmanica* has striking blue flowers with prominent yellow stamens, followed by purple berries; *Diplarrena moraea* has floppy white flowers with yellow and purple markings. *Patersonia longiscapa* has purple flowers and *Orthrosanthus multiflorus* a series of blue flowers clasping the stem. *Calectasia cyanea* is shown on page 144.

There are a wide range of ground covers that can be used to thread their way between shrubs and under trees. Low, strong-growing Grevilleas include *G. gaudichaudii* with its rich foliage and red flowers, *G. acanthifolia* which doesn't like it too wet, *G. thelemanniana*, having a striking form with deep red flowers and grey foliage and *G. steiglitziana*, an adaptable plant provided it has some sun and attractive with its hanging red flowers and holly foliage. The prostrate forms of *G. juniperina* can have red, yellow or brown flowers and like a damp position with some sun.

There are a number of low-growing, long flowering Grevillea. *Grevillea alpina*, with a number of different flower colours—white, yellow, red, mixed—grows well in shallow soils. It likes a mainly sunny position and is adaptable to moderate drainage. The better forms of *G. rosmarinifolia*, say with a glowing pink flower can take slightly more shade. *G. lavandulacea* with its deep red flowers spreads slightly, likes a reasonable amount of sun and good drainage. *G. bipinnatifida* has large dull red hanging flowers and is moderately hardy. *G. baueri*, with red flowers, is a hardy plant that likes partial shade; it also spreads a little. Other attractive Grevillea are *G. dimorpha*, *G. chrysophaea* with big yellow flowers, *G. lanigera*, *G. parviflora* with pink and white flowers, *G. capitellata* and *G. fascicularis* with orangy-red flowers.

BORONIA - CORREA - ERIOSTEMON

I have found the smaller *Boronia* difficult to establish. They probably need a damper, more sheltered position than I have given them. *Boronia serrulata* is slow growing and brittle, but worth waiting for. Others you may like to try are *Boronia filifolia* with its red stems, *B. spathulata*, *B. pilosa*, *B. anemonifolia* and *B. gracilipes*. See page 159.

Correas are hardy, long-flowering plants. *C. mannii* has large red tubular flowers and can spread to four feet and can grow in deep shade. The varieties of *C. reflexa* need a little more sun.

Correa alba has a strong white stem-shaped flower and is hardy and grows particularly well in coastal areas.

Correa pulchella has orange or red flowers and is low growing but spreads and needs a sunny position with moisture for best results.

Wax-flowers are usually difficult to establish but *Eriostemon myoporoides* is adaptable and hardy. The smaller *E. verrucosus* seems to need a sunny well-drained position.

Melaleuca, the smaller species, are also worthwhile. Outstanding are the hardy "claw-flowers" *Melaleuca thymifolia* and *M. pulchella*, both having deep mauve flowers, the first in clusters, the second more sparsely amongst neat greyish foliage. *M. thymifolia* will flower in deep shade. See pp. 180.

Prostanthera—*P. aspalathoides* with either orange or red flowers, several times a year, grows well in a sunny, open position. See cover colour plate. *P. incisa rosea* has pink flowers and small crinkly leaves; *P. violacea* has deeper flowers and smaller foliage; *P. cuneata* has big blotched white flowers; care needs to be taken not to water the plant when the sun is on it. Low growing *P. empetrifolia* has long-lasting mauve flowers.

Rhododendron lochae will grow well, if you provide rich soil with plenty of humus and a cool sheltered position, producing large red trumpet flowers.

Chorizema cordatum, a red, orange and yellow pea flower is long flowering, even in shade. It likes mulch.

Epacris—*E. longiflora* with its hanging line of white-tipped red flowers is adaptable, provided it doesn't have too much shade. *Epacris impressa* (Common Heath) looks magnificent if developed into clumps throughout the garden, especially the red or pink forms. It likes a damp, well-drained position with slight shade.

Tetratheca can have mauve or white flowers and are small plants that like slight shade. *T. ciliata* and *T. ericifolia* are similar in habit.

The small form of *Baeckea ramossissima* is long-flowering, with some deep pink shades, and the plants like mulch. It is adaptable to the amount of sun.

Everlasting daisies also do well in a sunny position. The slightly spreading *Helichrysum bracteatum* can have rich gold flowers or lemon or with a pinkish tinge. The smaller *H. baxteri* has white flowers and a yellow centre. One form of *H. semi-papposum* has soft grey foliage and rich yellow flowers.

Eremophila also like a well-drained, sunny position. Try *E. gibbifolia* with small mauve flowers, *E. maculata aurea* (yellow) and *E. polyclada*, with its large spotted white flowers. See page 184.

Verticordia do well in protected, sunny raised beds, particularly *V. plumosa* and *V. acerosa*; others are being tried with mixed success.

Beaufortia and *Eremaea* like a similar situation. Smaller *Beaufortias* being grown include *B. purpurea* and *B. schaueri*. *Eremaea beaufortioides* is slow to flower but its delicate orange flower and perfume is worth waiting for.

Several small *Acacia* for sunny, dry positions are *Acacia acinacea* with its arching, blossom-smothered branches; *A. mitchelli*, a summer-flowerer; *A. brownii*, *A. cuneata* and three with varying prickliness; *A. aculeatissima*, *A. pulchella*, both dainty and thorny, and *A. continua* with its large, dark yellow balls. *A. glaucoptera*, a low-growing spreading plant, has rich coloured new growth and winged foliage.



GOLD DUST WATTLE—ACACIA ACINACEA

I have by no means mentioned all the small native plants available, or yet to be tried. I would advise you to visit the native plant gardens in your town, see what you like and develop your own distinctive combination. Good luck.



"PRICKLY MOSES"—ACACIA VERTICILLATA

A larger wattle commonly found in the Victorian Grampians.

ACACIA FLEXIFOLIA

Numerous wattles that will enhance your garden are described on the next page. Small shrubs with a growth habit of that above are particularly valuable.

Photography by P. Ellis



ACACIAS FOR MELBOURNE GARDENS

by F. J. C. Rogers

Wattles belong to the genus *Acacia*. It is a very large genus numbering in excess of 650 Australian species, with many more awaiting discovery in some of the remoter areas of our country. Western Australia has more than 300 species, while New South Wales and Queensland lay claim to about 200 species each, Northern Territory has in excess of 120 species and South Australia and Victoria record about 90 species each. Tasmania has the least with 18 species of which 2 are endemic and the rest occur in the mainland states.

Because there is such a huge number of species it is possible to choose a suitable plant for all but the deeply shaded or wet positions. Wattles as a rule are plants which are plentiful in much of the landscape of interior Australia. We have even accepted the aboriginal words for some of the wattles not only to signify species but to refer to specific types of country e.g. *mulga* and *myall*.

The foliage of wattles shows great diversity. This may range from true, or bipinnate, or feathery, leaves to the leaf-like structures known as phyllodes. These may be needle-like and up to 22 inches long as in *Acacia longiphylloidea* to the broad phyllode a foot to eighteen inches wide as in *A. dunnii*. Many wattles have a sharp spine protruding from the leaf bases and this may help make them very useful hedge plants.

Wattles are very useful plants for many gardens because they are pioneer plants which may be removed after a few years during which time they may condition the soil and make it possible to grow more difficult plants.

With care wattle plants will give a rewarding display with masses of blossom, but do not forget that many also have attractive foliage. Most respond to some pruning, which is usually done during or after flowering.

The following is a brief introduction to these wonderful plants.

SMALL SHRUBS

Acacia brownii, a dainty dwarf about 2 feet high, with small ($\frac{1}{4}$ "') sharp phyllodes; likes an open, dry position; ball flowers appear during spring.

Acacia continua has intricate foliage with phyllodes almost like small hooks, forms a dense shrub 2 to 3 feet high and bears some of the largest deep yellow ball flowers in early spring; likes a warm dry position.

Acacia drummondii one of the most beautiful of the small acacias with soft bipinnate foliage and golden rod flowers; prefers an open well-drained position; usually a shrub 3 to 4 feet high and wide but some forms may be nearer 8 feet high while others are prostrate.

Acacia flexifolia a small, dense rounded shrub about 4 feet high with small phyllodes and pale yellow flowers during winter; likes a well-drained position.

Acacia pulchella small shrub with soft bipinnate foliage but very sharp spines; large deep yellow ball flowers on a shrub 4 to 5 feet high.

Acacia strigosa, dainty dwarf with soft bipinnate leaves; height 2 to 3 ft. Ball flowers during spring.

Editor's Note: Previous issues have described 116 species under various headings such as "Queensland's Wattles", "Central Australian Acacia", "South Australian Species", "N.S.W. Wattles", "Tasmanian Wattles", "Small Acacia For Rock Gardens", "Acacia for the Seaside", "Acacia for Clay or Heavy Soils" etc. Such easily grown wildflowers should be in every garden. You can easily grow some from seed as described opposite.

LARGE SHRUBS

Acacia boormanii, Snowy River Wattle, a fine foliage plant which grows well in the heavy soils; reaches 8 to 12 feet high and wide with ball flowers during late winter and early spring.

Acacia glandulicarpa, Hairy-pod Wattle, a unique Victorian species; does well in heavy soils where it forms a hemispherical shrub 4 to 5 feet high and 5 to 6 feet wide; ball flowers spring.

Acacia howittii, another Victorian species this time from a small area in Gippsland; forms a shrub 10 to 12 feet or more high with soft, sticky phyllodes and pale ball flowers during late spring.

Acacia iteaphylla, dense shrub, with deep yellow flowers from early winter; may reach 10 to 12 feet or more in height and width.

Acacia leprosa, Cinnamon Wattle has fine, slender, weeping foliage on a shrub about 12 feet high; foliage has a sweet fragrance particularly after rain at certain times of the year.

Acacia spectabilis is an open large shrub to about 12 feet with bipinnate leaves and large ball flowers in early spring.

Acacia vestita, Weeping Boree, a lovely weeping species for a dry, warm position; flowers in early spring; height about 12 feet; phyllodes small and soft.

SMALL TREES

Acacia baileyana, Cootamundra Wattle, widely planted because of its bluish bipinnate foliage; height 15 to 20 feet; flowers about July; responds to pruning.

Acacia adunca, a narrow-leaved species to about 20 feet with attractive foliage and ball flowers early spring.

Acacia decurrens, Early Black Wattle reaches 20 to 30 feet high; has fine dark-green bipinnate foliage; deep yellow ball flowers in early spring.

Acacia podalyriaefolia, Mt. Morgan Wattle, an open species to about 15 feet with bluish foliage; early flowering spring; likes plenty of warmth.

Acacia pravissima, Oven's Wattle, an open intricate plant with stiff, small almost triangular phyllodes; grown for foliage as well as ball flowers during spring; height 15 feet.

Acacia longifolia, Sallow Wattle, small fast growing tree to 20 feet with rod-like flowers during spring.

Acacia retinodes, Wirilda, a very fast growing species from 15 to 20 feet; has ball flowers throughout most of the year particularly Feb., Sept.

Acacia saligna, Golden Wreath Wattle, has very long phyllodes and some of the largest ball flowers which may be a deep yellow, almost orange, usually during October; height 12 feet.

Acacia acuminata (Raspberry Jam) and *A. doratoxylon* (Currawong) are two similar species with narrow phyllodes and large yellow rod-like flowers during spring.

PROPAGATION

As described in previous issues wattles are particularly easy to grow from seed. Place the seed in a cup and pour boiling water over them. Allow them to soak until they swell in 2-6 days. Plant in a pot of clean coarse sand to 1/4" deep. Put a piece of glass on top until they germinate, keeping the sand moist and the pot in a sunny position out of the wind.

ACACIA STUDY GROUP

Study groups comprise readers who contact each other through a leader usually by mail. They exchange seeds, plants and experiences. If you would like to join the Acacia Study Group send a stamp addressed envelope to Mrs. I. B. Armitage, 410 Anembo Road, Terrey Hills, N.S.W. 2084. Do you know that there are more than 600 Acacia species in Australia, many ideal for garden cultivation.

CORREA

by W. Rodger Elliot, Montrose, Vic.

If you are looking for a pleasing clump of green foliage in your garden, and flower for a long period, you will go a long way to find a better group of plants than the *Correas*. A planting of 4 or 5 *Correas* will provide year-round flowering and colours can be cream, green, lemons, pink, vermillion and numerous shades of red, many having green or yellow tips. There are also some interesting and unusual flower forms such as *C. bauerlennii*, the "Chef's Cap *Correa*".

Ranging in height from prostrate groundcovers to small trees, *Correa* are excellent in attracting native honey-eating birds, as the tubular bell-like flowers contain copious supplies of nectar, often at times of the year when the supply thereof in the garden is somewhat limited. Most tubular flowers are, incidentally, excellent for their nectar supply.



Photography by Ron Hill

CORREA REFLEXA

Correas will grow under many types of soil and weather conditions e.g. *C. alba* will grow under extreme coastal conditions, whilst *C. reflexa* grows in a number of adverse situations.

The Correa belongs to the Rutaceae family which has as fellow members the *Boronia*, *Asterolasia*, *Phebalium*, *Eriostemon*, *Crowea*, *Ziera* and *Citrus* etc.

The following are species which I have propagated and grown under nursery conditions:-

***Correa aemula*.** Scrambling plant which appreciates a moist, shady location; growing to 4 ft. and spreading 4-6 ft. Leaves are hairy and flowers green, turning purple with age. S.A. and Grampians Vic.

***C. aemula* x *C. reflexa*.** A natural hybrid growing in the Grampians. Pinkish bells with green tip. Will stand semi-shaded to open position.

***Correa alba*.** Bushy plant to 3-4 ft. x 4 ft. wide. Rounded smooth green leaves being about 1½" long. This species differs from all others by having white star-like flowers in summer, the corolla tube having split into four petals. Grows naturally on N.S.W., Vic. and Tas. coastlines. Other forms of this plant in cultivation are (i) pale pink flowered form, (ii) low form to about 1 ft. high, spreading 3 ft. Leaves are quite hairy and rusty in appearance, (iii) a very compact form, 2 ft. x 2 ft.

***Correa backhousiana*.** A larger growing plant 3-6 ft. x 5 ft. generally, but can grow 12-15 ft. tall in shaded areas. Adaptable to most conditions. Dark green oval foliage. Cream to pale green bells. Tas.

***Correa bauerlenii*.** A hardy shrub with unique greenish yellow bells about 1" long, with a flat calyx. Grows to 3-6 ft. x 4 ft. wide. S.E. N.S.W.

***Correa calycina*.** This plant grows well in dense shade, even in dryish soil conditions. Has green flowers in winter-spring and grows 4-5 ft. x 6 ft. There are reports of this Correa growing to 8 ft. under natural conditions. S.A.

***Correa decumbens*.** A very hardy prostrate to semi-prostrate plant, spreading 4-5 ft. Has narrow leaves and narrow upturned red bells with green tips in summer. This plant is useful as a ground cover for banks and semi- to densely-shaded flat areas. S.A.

***Correa glabra*.** A plant of variable form, especially in regard to the leaf which can vary from narrow to broad ovate. With green bells in winter, this very adaptable plant will withstand dryness for periods during the year, and grows 4-6 ft. x 4 ft. Qld., N.S.W., Vic., Tas.

***Correa mannii*.** A hardy hybrid originating in a Melbourne garden, this long flowering plant has salmon-red bells approx. 1" x 3/8" from autumn to early spring. Has deep green foliage. Height 4 ft. x 4 ft. wide.

***Correa lawrenciana* var. *lawrenciana*.** This plant can grow to small tree proportions. The narrow flowers approx. 1" long vary from reddish to buff-cream in colour. Leaves are 2-3" long x 1" wide. This Correa grows best in a cool, moist, sheltered position. N.S.W., Vic., Tas.

***C. lawrenciana* var. *rosea*.** A lovely red flowered form growing only in the alpine areas of the Snowy Mountains in N.S.W. and Victoria. 4-8 ft. x 5 ft. wide. Narrow leathery leaves. Likes semi-shade and summer moisture.

***Correa pulchella*.** Here is a plant of many forms, some prostrate, others forming a clump 2 ft. x 4 ft. wide, or even climbing in certain locations. It bears small orange to vermillion bells in winter and is hardy under most conditions. S.A.

***Correa reflexa*.** The most variable of all the *Correas*, growing naturally under all imaginable conditions from shady gullies to desert areas. The leaves vary greatly in size and the bell shaped corollas take many forms, varying in colour from creamy green with cream tip, green, or various shades of red with yellow or green tips. Plants which I have propagated and grown (all of different physical character) have been from the following areas of Vic. The Big Desert; Little Desert: Yanakie, near Wilson's Promontory (2 forms); Anglesea; Lakes Entrance; Briagalong; Warrnambool; Grampians; the Dandenongs; Dutson; The Brisbane Ranges (8 different forms) and Ararat.

***Correa reflexa*—Anglesea form.** This form has narrow corolla, red with green tip, approx. 1" long and with the green flowered form with relatively large oval foliage from the Brisbane Ranges, has proved the most vigorous under cultivation. A low spreading form with a squat red and green bell has proved a good grower also.

***Correa reflexa*—Ararat and Dutson forms.** Possibly the most spectacular with a large deep red corolla with green tip. The species from Dutson is a variety known as *C. reflexa* var. *cardinalis*, whose flowers seem to "light" the whole bush, especially on a dull day. This plant grows 3-4 ft. x 4-5 ft. wide.

***Correa reflexa*—Grampians forms.** These are also very attractive, tending to be rather sparsely foliaged and thus showing their flower to full advantage. One of the main disadvantages with some forms, is that flowers tend to be hidden behind leaves which cling beside the corolla.

C. reflexa grows best in a position with filtered sunlight generally, and moist soil conditions for the majority of the year, although as previously mentioned, plants can be found growing well in many positions, including full sun and dry soil conditions.

***Correa schlechtendalii*.** A bushy plant with grey-green foliage, growing to 3-5 ft. x 4 ft. The small flowers, being red with yellow/green tips, are produced over the summer period and sometimes into autumn. A very hardy and adaptable plant supplying nectar for honey-eating birds in the summer months.

Cultivation

All *Correas* respond well to "tip pruning" as they grow, thus establishing a bushy plant. They also respond to light doses of slow release fertilizers e.g. blood and bone, once or twice per year. There is a tendency for plants to be sometimes attacked by sooty mould and scale but these can be remedied safely, by the application of white oil spray mixed with Clensel or Carbaryl, as per manufacturer's directions.

One of the advantages of *Correas* is that they can be fitted into an established garden with little effort, as they do not need large areas in which to grow, so next time you pull out an overgrown weed which has been thriving under your established shrubs, or next time you are thinking about that somewhat shaded area alongside the house where not a large number of plants will grow, it may be the spot for a *Correa*.

WILDFLOWERS OF WILSON'S PROMOTORY

This 192 page book is the result of years of rambling over the national park by the author Ros. Garnet. A thorough and practical naturalist Ros says: "The book is offered to those who, with no particular knowledge of the technicalities of botany, wish to know something about the hosts of wildflowers that may be seen during a sojourn in the park". Every plant species known to have been found in the area is recorded in an annotated checklist and the more common ones illustrated by photographs and hundreds of accurate line drawings showing plant, flowers, leaf shape and variations, etc. Of special value is a stroll along "Seakers Cove Track" or "Tongue Point Track" with the author as he describes the scene as seen by a competent naturalist. Price \$5.25 plus 15c postage.

BORONIA

BORONIA AND OTHER RUTACEAE by R. M. Raid

Boronia are popular with most people so that it is encouraging to find species that are quite hardy. With the worst kind of clay soil possible, and a position facing west where winds blow off the Keilor Plains, conditions on my block would not be considered ideal. However quite a number of the *Rutaceae* family have been growing over the past twelve years.

Various soils were brought over the years ranging from sandy loam to rich mountain soil, and as the block is flat the beds were raised to improve drainage. This is ideal in wet weather but poses quite a problem in drought conditions.

Added to this our average rainfall is less than 20" per year. During the drought a couple of years ago many grew on with only weekly watering with a bucket. Some were even better as they had individual attention.

Boronia crenulata grew on happily and continued to sucker as this form has done over more than 10 years. Suckers grow from mature plants after what appears to be some surface scratching by blackbirds and the disturbance by removing weeds.

Boronia megastigma var. *virtuoso* is extremely hardy, particularly in heavier type soil such as river soil. I have tried it in all types of soil but river soil proved superior to sandy loams. I have never lost a plant due to dryness but only to pests such as scale and sooty mould or snails ring-barking plants.

Other hardy *Boronias* are *Boronia tetrandra*, a greenish yellow flower, *B. heterophylla*, *B. deanii*, *B. elatior* (the heavy form), *B. denticulata*, *B. megastigma* var. *lutea*, *B. fastigiata* and *B. pinnata*. Even *B. serrulata* grows happily if given reasonable conditions such as a stone at its root system to keep them cool, and a reasonable amount of sunlight.

Boronia juncea grew like weeds from seed but gradually all died out in the garden, it is an almost leafless plant with terminal flowers.

Boronia mollis and *B. fraseri* grew for a number of years and finally died because of competition from other plants, but *B. mollis* is not hard to strike from cuttings so is easily replaced.

Boronia microphylla is in my opinion one of the loveliest and seems quite hardy if given some shelter, but plants are not very easy to obtain.

Boronia pilosa has been seen growing in very dry conditions and also very damp spots in their natural habitat but I find it very difficult in the garden.

PROPAGATION

Cuttings of most *Boronia* taken just after Christmas strike better in my cold frame than any other time, providing there is not a sudden burst of heat.

ERIOSTEMON

Eriostemon lanceolatus must be a favourite of the *Rutaceae* perhaps because I remember the way it grew in great profusion where I lived as a child. The long dry winter spells we had helped me to understand what the plant may need. I feel sure once small plants become established they will withstand dry conditions. Two plants I have had in my garden over 10 years appeared to be dying but revived with many buckets of water and are still growing and flower each year.

Eriostemon spicatus is a lovely dainty plant but I find it difficult to keep growing.

Eriostemon nodiflorus looks very similar to *E. spicatus* except for the flower arrangement. It strikes readily from cuttings but is not as desirable as a beautiful blue form which is much rarer.

Crowea make lovely garden plants being compact and flowering when there aren't many flowers in the garden. *Crowea angustifolia* has proved difficult to grow but *Crowea saligna* is quite hardy if it has some shelter and strikes quite readily from cuttings taken during flowering time. The large flowered form of *Crowea exalata* is even more hardy and extremely easy to strike from cuttings.

Zieria cytisioides is hardy and has rather nice grey foliage with pink flowers and grows readily from seed.

Zieria aspalathoides has dainty pink flowers and foliage and will grow easily from cuttings.

Zieria veronicea—I have seen growing in the Little Desert and I thought it was one of the loveliest plants you could wish to see—simply covered with pink foliage. However the only plant I have is in my new garden on Lake Eildon where it is doing very well with once a week watering during dry periods. It is right out in the open on a clay mound.

Chorileana quercifolia with its rough oak shaped leaves and pendant light green flowers, is very hardy and makes a good background shrub.

Diplolaena grandiflora has bracts and stamens more reddish but quite similar. The plants are easy to propagate but seem to require an even supply of water during summer or they will die very quickly.

Most plants of the family Rutaceae are worthy of trial.

VICTORIAN BORONIAS

BORONIA WITH PINNATE LEAVES by Jean Galbraith

Two very attractive species of the pinnata group of boronias are native to Victoria, *Boronia muelleri* Cheel (which looks very like *B. thujona* and *B. floribunda* both of N.S.W.), and *B. latipinna* Willis which is a more solid-looking plant with heavier leaves, endemic, so far as is known, in the Victorian Grampians. *B. pilosa* Labill. "Hairy Boronia", though closely related, could not be mistaken for any other south-eastern species.

Boronia muelleri Cheel, Pink Boronia, is one of the daintiest species in the group, usually shell-pink but ranging from white to deep pink, with fragrant aromatic pinnate foliage, ranging in habit from dwarf in rocky dry sclerophyll forest where it is rarely 2' high, to tall (up to 20') in cool wet sclerophyll forest where the rainfall is high and the soil carries a deep layer of humus. It usually flowers earlier than *B. thujona* from which it can be distinguished at once by its pleasant fragrance and more erect branchlets. It is distinguished from *B. pinnata* by its non-apiculate anthers (i.e. anthers without conspicuous little points); from *B. floribunda* by its small stigma (much smaller than the ovary) and from *B. saefrolifera* by its branches quite without hairs.

The delicate pink flowers are usually more cupped than in other species and often a little smaller. It takes kindly to cultivation if given a cool, well-drained but not dry position.

Boronia latipinna Willis has so far as I know no common name but might well be called Grampians *Boronia* or Winged *Boronia*. It is at once distinguished from all the related species by its firm thick leaflets, joined at the base by a green wing on the rhachis (midrib).

Its flowers are large and bright pink, only rarely white or pale pink, and it is a robust plant with relatively thick strong branches, growing amongst rocks on several Grampians mountains, usually near the summit in peaty soil amongst rocks.

The one plant I have grown flowered well for some years but died during a dry summer. Though growing in high well-drained positions it is probably accustomed to constant underground moisture.

Boronia pilosa Labill. has more or less velvety stems while the other two are without hairs, and it has much smaller, but very abundant flowers. It is also distinctive because it has very narrow (often almost threadlike) leaflets, usually in threes but occasionally more, or less.

In the Victorian Grampians, especially on peaty mountain tops, the leaflets are so crowded that they look almost moss-like, concealing the stems, and thickly dotted with wide-open little pink stars.

Near Portland, and in Tasmania, the foliage is more open and the plant looser, with the narrow foliage almost concealed in spring by the axillary clusters of little pink stars.

I have grown both forms, and both are most attractive, but I have lost all that were planted in clay after a year or two at the most; though one in sand, and half shade, with protective rocks at the root, has flowered well for five years. The plants in clay were also in fuller sunshine so it was not necessarily the clay that did not suit them.

An unusually tall form of Hairy *Boronia* (up to 12' high) grows in East Gippsland, where it is rare. It has slightly broader leaflets and narrower petals than the more typical forms.

Boronia ledifolia J. Gay, of N.S.W. also grows in eastern Victoria (Snowy and Tambo Rivers) but though it usually has trifoliate leaves it does not belong to the "pinnata group" and is very distinct, with broader leaflets, shining above, and flowers in hairy calyces.

Boronia filifolia F. Muell. comes into far western Victoria, but it only occasionally has pinnate leaves, and though somewhat like *B. pilosa* it is without hairs, has terminal flowers, and leaves usually more stalk-like.

BIRDS IN THE NATIVE GARDEN

by W. H. King

Our garden is situated at South Warrandyte, a semi-rural area 18 miles east of Melbourne. In 1963 a large portion of the original garden was cleared of exotic trees and shrubs and replanted with Australian native plants, the prime purpose being to retain local birds in an area which is undergoing rapid clearing and development. Since this time the native garden has been extended to cover more than one acre and incorporates a dam situated on the property.

The success of the garden is reflected in the number of different species of native birds recorded. Of these thirty to forty are found in the garden throughout the whole year, almost an equal number are of seasonal occurrence,

and we also have casual visitors. There has been no artificial feeding of birds and no interference from domestic pets.

Birds are attracted to the garden basically for shelter and food. Shelter and protection are provided by such plants as *Acacia*, *Hakea*, *Prostanthera*, *Melaleuca*, *Callistemon* and smaller eucalypts. These are bushy with dense foliage and added protection is afforded by planting in clumps. This has happened naturally with *Acacia boormanii* which has suckered freely. Several species of native birds have nested in these thickets, some nests not being discovered until no longer in use. The spotted pardalotes have even tunnelled their nest holes and reared their young in a heap of mountain soil purchased for the garden.

Many of the plants are nectar producing and are particularly attractive to the honeyeaters. Twelve honeyeaters have been recorded in the garden including the Crescent, Regent and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, species rarely seen in this area. Brush tongued lorikeets have been observed feeding on blossoms of the *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*—the River Red Gum—which dominates the garden.

Plants of the family *Myrtaceae* which include the genera *Callistemon*, *Calothamnus*, *Eucalyptus*, *Kunzea*, *Melaleuca* and the family *Proteaceae* such as *Banksia*, *Dryandra*, *Grevillea* and *Hakea* are found to be most suitable for attracting nectar feeding birds. Many other plants including *Anigozanthos*, *Correa*, *Eremophila* and *Epacris* are long flowering and therefore provide food over a long period. Although all Eucalypts have a great attraction for the birds we have found *E. leucoxylon*, *E. sideroxylon*, *E. caesia* and *E. lehmannii* to be among the most popular.

Care should be taken to ensure that there is an adequate supply of natural food during all seasons, particularly in winter. The period of flowering and the length of the flowering season are both important considerations. *Grevilleas* are most suitable in this regard as a number of species e.g. *Grevillea juniperina*, *G. punicea*, *G. sericea* and *G. hookeriana* are rarely without flowers.

The Bronze-winged Pigeon eat the seeds of *Acacia* especially *Acacia baileyana*, *A. longifolia*, *A. pravissima* and *A. boormanii*. Gang-gang Cockatoos, Crimson & Eastern Rosellas are seen in the garden in winter feeding on *Eucalyptus* fruits.

As well as being attractive, birds perform a useful function in helping to control garden pests. Scale and aphids are taken by pardalotes, thornbills and silver eyes while small caterpillars and other insects are kept in check by such small birds as the blue wrens, willie wagtail, scissor grinder, yellow robin and the fantails. The larger pests are taken by grey butcher birds, grey thrushes and black faced cuckoo shrikes.

A number of water birds including the white-faced and white-necked herons, the little pied cormorant and also an occasional nankeen night heron are attracted to the dam presumably by its content of fish and frogs. Welcome swallows feed regularly over the surface, while many birds particularly the red wattle birds, white-plumed honeyeaters and noisy miners bathe in the water.

Since the garden has been established we have noted several new species and in addition the bird population in the vicinity of the house has greatly increased.

Editor's Note: Previous issues have described plants for all areas that encourage and feed our native birds and give methods of feeding them from containers. We have a small book on the subject available from the Editor for \$2.10.

GARDEN EUCALYPTS

EUCALYPTS FOR SOUTHERN VICTORIAN GARDENS by E. E. Perkins

Eucalypts are the distinctive feature of Australian landscapes, and deserve a prominent place in all gardens. If all of the indigenous eucalypts are gone from the garden block, first thought should be given to replanting the local species. Propagation is easy. Collect ripe nuts and place them in an open jar for a week or so. The seed drops out and can be sown in autumn or spring. Sowing methods do not seem to be critical. Sprinkle over a pot of washed coarse sand and cover. Keep moist in partial sun. Transplant the seedlings when about an inch high.

Eucalypts can be planted for a variety of effects. They can be chosen for foliage, blossom, distinctive buds and fruit, ornamental trunk, for shelter, or to attract birds. Many species grow to 10 ft. or less, and an average suburban block has room for at least half a dozen eucalypts. I have seen gardens not overcrowded with 30 species.

There are hundreds of species to choose from. The ones that are listed here are hardy and should succeed near Melbourne in most soils.

BLUE LEAVED TREES

Many eucalypts have roundish blue leaves when young. In most cases they lose this foliage after a few years. Regular tip pruning is well worthwhile and will help prevent the tree from becoming straggly. In the growing season particularly, pinch the tip out of each shoot. Blue leaved eucalypts can be subject to insect attack. In most cases they can be cleaned up by hand. A good hosing down can be effective with aphids.

Eucalyptus crenulata (Silver Gum) 30 ft. Its natural habitat is a swamp in winter. In good conditions it will grow more than a foot a month. The leaves are small, toothed and heart shaped, even in large trees. White flowers.

Eucalyptus globulus (Blue Gum). It grows to a large tree. The juvenile leaves and sucker leaves are most attractive. To keep these, cut off a few inches from the ground each second or third September. The sucker leaves grow very rapidly. *E. bicostata* is very similar.

Eucalyptus perriniana (Round-leaf Snow Gum) 20 ft. The juvenile leaves are disc shaped, with the stalk growing through the centre. It responds well to the cutting back described for the blue-gums. Other blue leaved species worth trying are *E. pulverulenta* (Silver Mountain Gum) 15 ft., *E. crucis* (Silver Mallee) 15 ft., and *E. kruseana* (Kruse mallee) 10 ft. *E. cinerea* (Argyle Apple) grows to a large tree.

TREES WITH A WHITE TRUNK

Eucalyptus citriodora (Lemon Scented Gum) 50 ft. It is frost tender when young. The resistance to frost varies from plant to plant. Even if one is lost, it is worth trying again. Can be kept as a bush by very hard pruning.

Eucalyptus pauciflora (Snow Gum) 25 ft. Often with a drooping habit. A most attractive species which deserves being planted more widely. Other large gums are *E. saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum), *E. mannifera* sp. *maculosa* (Red Spotted Gum) and *E. maculata* (Spotted Gum).

TREES WITH VERY NARROW LEAVES

Eucalyptus spathulata (Swamp Mallet) 15 ft. Very hardy. Will grow in very wet or dry conditions.

Eucalyptus nicholi (Willow Peppermint) 30 ft. Rough bark. Leaves in spring take on a very attractive reddish colour.

RED FLOWERING SPECIES

In most species, the colour is variable, and seed from the same tree can produce colours ranging from deep red to white.

Eucalyptus ficifolia (Red Flowering Gum) 20 ft. Frost tender when young. It grows best near the sea. *E. calophylla* (marri) is similar, with pink or white flowers, and is more frost resistant.

Eucalyptus caesia (gungurru) 15 ft. Perhaps the most beautiful eucalypt of all. It can grow rapidly. The flower colour seems to be fairly constant.

Eucalyptus leucoxylon var. *macrocarpa* (Red Flowered Yellow Gum). 30 ft. Flowers over a long period in winter. An excellent bird tree.

Eucalyptus sideroxylon (Red Ironbark). Similar to *E. leucoxylon*, but with black "ironbark". The pink flowering, grey leaved form is best.

OTHER EUCALYPTS

Eucalyptus lehmanni (Bushy Yate) 20 ft. Yellow green flowers the size of a clenched fist, over most of the year. The buds are fused together and the caps are finger sized. *E. megacornuta* is similar but with warty buds.

Eucalyptus grossa (Phillips River Gum) 8 ft. Thick green leaves. Flowers are large and yellow-green.

Eucalyptus papuana (Ghost Gum) — SEED FOR SALE

100 seeds for \$1.00 — Peter Fannin, Bulli Road, Appin, 2560

BOOK REVIEWS

All books reviewed, in fact any book on wildflowers or the Australian scene are available by mail only from the Editor, 860 Henry Lawson Drive, Picnic Point, N.S.W. 2213.

"THE WILDFLOWERS OF WILSON'S PROMONTORY" — Price \$5.25 plus 15c postage
See page 158 for review.

"AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS FOR HOME GARDENS"—A. E. Brooks
Price \$5.75 plus 20c postage

That a fourth edition of this book has been necessary, indicates how popular it has been to those who want to grow wildflowers in their gardens. This latest edition is larger, with more illustrations and is ideal for those people who are just beginning this fascinating hobby. 176 pages, 80 illustrations (9 in colour).

"THE PRACTICAL HOME GARDENER"—T. R. N. Lothian Price \$10.50 plus 25c postage

This is the best general gardening book available on the market. The author is director of the Botanic Garden, Adelaide. He has made a special study of the problem that confronts a home gardener and his advice is sound and practical. This is the only general gardening book that adequately considers the problems encountered by the people in the country, especially the drier areas and the only one that adequately refers to the Australian flora and uses it extensively in dry area planting.

"INTRODUCTION TO THE FINE STRUCTURE OF PLANT CELLS"—Ledbetter & Porter
Price \$14.80 plus \$1.20 postage

This 190 page book, published in Germany, of the work of two distinguished American scientists is to serve as a supplementary text to students of cell biology. Over fifty large electron micrographs (black and white photographic observations through an electron microscope) of cell types from higher plants are presented. Each plate is accompanied by a description, simplified by the use of markers overprinted on the photographs, describing the salient features, structure and function of the type of cell illustrated. A complex subject with all the recent advances of world science presented in such a clear simple fashion.

"THE NORTHERN TERRITORY IN COLOUR"—John Ross Price \$3.95 plus 25c postage
A 78 page (large page size 11" x 8½") containing principally full page beautiful colour plates of all facets of life and scene in the Northern Territory. Tourists will find real value in the last 15 pages devoted to the type of information they would want to know when visiting the area.

JACARANDA COLOUR GUIDES — Price \$1.95 each plus 20c postage
TREES OF AUSTRALIA by H. Oakman

This small pocket book proved so popular that it has been reproduced, though this time in full colour. A marvellous 130 page guide to sixty species of our native trees. The descriptions accompanying the colour plates are clear and accurate.

Other titles in the series available for a similar price are "Australian Butterflies", "Australian Minerals", "Australian Moths", "Australian Native Gardens and Birds", "The Australian Sky", "Australian Weather", "Bush Birds of Australia", "Corals of the Great Barrier Reef", "Freshwater Fishes", "Insects of Australia", "Marine Fishes" (2 vols.), "Marsupials of Australia", "Sharks and other Predatory Fish", "Shells of the Australian Sea Shore", "Snakes & Lizards", "Spiders of Australia".

PLANNING A NATIVE GARDEN

by N. Kemble

First step in planning a native garden is to get a clear picture of the type of garden you want . . . the overall effect required. There are two basic types of native garden—formal (lawns, beds, etc.) and natural. These are both attractive, simply make up your mind which type you want *before* you start planting, it will save you a lot of work later.

Whatever your choice, there are a few basic factors to consider. Remember—think, plan, visualise, before you act!

Everyone starts with some basic "raw material", to which they add certain selected elements to achieve a composition or total visual effect. Rather like an artist painting a picture. And it can be just as creative and satisfying.

The basic raw materials are—aspect, soil, levels, water and existing growth.

Let's consider each of these.

Aspect

There will be a dominant aspect which controls the amount of light and sun your garden will get. North-west is sunnier and hotter than south-east. Aspect can affect *what* you plant and *where* you plant.

Soil

Very few of us have perfect soil, but everyone can have a native garden. Even the extremes of pure sand to pure clay, given the right attention, can make a good garden. Preparation of the soil is a complete subject in itself; suffice to say here—check your soil type, understand it and plan accordingly. Previous issues will help you here.

Levels

Consider the natural fall of your block and see how it can be used to the best advantage. Should it be terraced? (Use plenty of logs and rocks for this!) Does the position of the drive effect the plan? If the block is flat, can it be changed? Different levels make a native garden more interesting.

Water

If you can, study your block during a wet spell to see if there are drainage problems, especially if you have clay soil. A few "aggie" pipes laid before planting can save trouble and heartbreak from plant losses later on. Natives generally don't like "wet feet".

Existing Growth

If you are fortunate enough to have a block with good trees, make these the focal points of your garden. Think of the 20 years or so that the trees have taken to grow and respect their age.

One or two large rocks can also make an interesting "centre piece" so if your block already has them try to take advantage of this. A "difficult" building block often makes the best native garden.

Don't hand over to the rotary hoe until you're sure there are no useful little shrubs creeping among the weeds. If there are any, save them.

Height and Sizes

Yes, not only height, but width, must be considered in the early stages. Most of us "over-plant" because we are impatient. If the catalogue says the shrub grows 6-8 ft. high, allow for a similar width.

Foliage

There is a wide range of leaf shapes and colours to choose from. Aim for variety. Some trees have different juvenile to adult foliage.

Consider also the style of growth—a dense shrub makes a good foil for a tall “leggy” specimen.

Blossom

Two factors to consider are season and colour. Careful planning can give you something blooming all the year round.

A showy white *Melaleuca* between two crimson *Callistemons* (bottlebrush) makes an excellent combination for spring-summer flowering.

Grouping

If you have a large garden, good effects can be obtained by grouping several of the same species together.

Alternatively, group different shrubs and trees together to compliment each other. Odd numbers make better groups than even numbers.

More importantly, enjoy planning and working in your garden. Think creatively, use your imagination, “do your own thing”, but take the time to understand the elements you’re working with. You’ll be amply rewarded.

GO NATIVE

HOW TO TRANSFORM A CONVENTIONAL GARDEN INTO A NATIVE ONE

by M. Fisch

The question often arises, “Can you tell me how to start to convert my garden to Natives?” You often see some garden, Australian plants here and there, but dominated by Exotics, the owner admitting to prefer a Native garden, but being hesitant to get rid of the older often very unsightly trees and shrubs. He hopes to let the Natives grow and when they provide shade, get rid of the old *prunus* or *poplar* or whatever is there.

I would advise anybody to make a clean sweep. After the second year, even if you put in small plants, you will have some protection from wind, sun, etc. Without the competition of old roots of still growing trees, the Natives grow quicker and better and bushier. Another thing, it’s much easier to chop out old trees and bushes, if you don’t have to take care about ruining other plants. Non suckering trees don’t have to be removed completely; if you leave the stump it might protect your new plants and it can be made most attractive overgrown with climbers such as *Hardenbergias*, *Kennedya*s, etc.

Cut down bigger limbs and trunks can be most useful for remodelling your garden or just placed into strategic positions to protect your new plants from dogs, cats, scratching blackbirds and neighbours’ kids. If you have rocks for landscaping your environment, don’t “stick them up” like a “sore thumb” or form “scalloped edges”. Place each stone or rock down the way it looks most natural; a rock border can look so right or so terribly wrong!

To fill in gaps between small shrubs and trees plant Australian annuals during the first year. There is a lovely variety, such as *Helichrysum*, *Helipterum*, *Didiscus*, etc.

Finally put down some mulch, use matured sawdust or bark, twigs, gravel, etc., and watch the progress of your garden.

Enjoy your plants, in 3-4 years it will have shaded nooks and flowers to gladden your heart and delight your native birds.

HAKEA

AS GROWN IN MELBOURNE GARDENS by F. J. C. Rogers

Hakeas belong to the plant family Proteaceae. There are about 130 species throughout Australia, with the majority being found in Western Australia. They vary in size from small shrubs to small trees, while the leaf shape varies from terete to broad with some species having very sharp prickles. Many species are grown because of their attractive foliage, particularly when the foliage is young.

Hakea species are generally hardy but better results are usually obtained by ensuring good drainage. The species described are well suited to Melbourne gardens but could be equally successful in areas near the coast, or other areas north of the Divide.

Hakea baxteri is a shrub of 6 to 15 feet in height with only a small spread. The fan-shaped serrated leaves have attractive bronze tips on the new foliage but the small cream to brown flowers during spring are often unseen as they hide among the leaves.

Hakea bucculenta is only suited to a hot, well-drained position in Melbourne gardens. It is a shrub from the sandy areas near Geraldton, W.A. It has a height of 6 to 10 feet with a spread of 4 to 8 feet. Spikes of orange to red flowers 3 to 6 inches long appear during spring.

Hakea corymbosa is a dense upright shrub with very stiff, pungent foliage. Lime green flowers appear in terminal clusters during spring. It grows from 4 to 8 feet high and 2 to 4 feet wide.

Hakea dactyloides is usually a small shrub of 10 feet or so in height. It has broad flat leaves which have three prominent nerves. It has attractive axillary flowers in late winter to early spring. Two forms are available.

Hakea gibbosa (syn. *H. pubescens*). This is one of the best shrubs to use for a detour sign as the fine grey needle-like foliage which is soft while young, soon matures and becomes very rigid with a fine pungent point. It is dense to about 12 feet and bears white flowers.

Hakea laurina is the well-known "Pin Cushion Hakea". It is grown throughout most areas of Victoria where it makes a single trunked shrub from 6 to 12 feet in height with much the same spread. The young foliage is bronze-tipped while the red and cream pin-cushion like flowers appear during May to June.

Hakea franciscana is a shrub which has recently been re-separated from *H. multineata*. It is very similar in habit and requirements, the main points of which are good drainage and a warm position. It will reach 8 to 15 feet in height and has long narrow many veined leaves and long red to orange flower spikes. Colour plate Vol. 5, pp. 337.

Hakea myrtoides is a spreading diffuse shrub of 1 to 2 feet with small broad, sharply pointed leaves. Pink flowers appear along the branches. Colour plate Vol. 5, pp. 376.

Hakea nitida is a large spreading shrub to 10 feet high and almost as wide. It bears flat leaves and white flowers and is very hardy.

Hakea obtusa is a shrub to 6 feet high. Leaves are flat, and short, rather like those of *H. laurina*. It bears pink to cream pin-cushion flowers during early spring.

Editor's Note: Our No. 44 issue is devoted principally to describing and illustrating species of Hakea and articles describe species from different States with a special article on Victorian Hakea.

HAKEA STUDY GROUP—Those interested in joining the group and exchanging notes, seeds, etc., contact Mr. Royce Raleigh, 23 Annie Crescent, Montrose, Victoria.

Hakea orthorrhyncha (Bird Hakea) is a spreading shrub about 6 feet high and wide. It has almost terete foliage which is often divided into several segments. A plant will respond with better flowers if planted in a hot dry position. Brilliant red flowers appear scattered along the old wood.

Hakea pycnoneura is a shrub up to 6 feet high with long, stiff, twisted, deeply furrowed leaves. The cream and purple pin-cushion flowers appear during winter.

Hakea platysperma has long terete foliage on a shrub from 3 to 8 feet. It grows well in a hot dry area. The large sparse white to yellow flowers appear in spring but it is the very large, almost globular fruits which attract attention.

Hakea purpurea (Qld. Crimson Hakea). This species grows better in gardens north of the divide or where it receives warmth and dry conditions. It is a shrub from 4 to 6 feet high with dark green short, fine much divided foliage and masses of crimson flowers. Colour plate Vol. 5, pp 340.

Hakea prostrata (syn. *H. glabella*) is a variable shrub, often prostrate or erect to about 10 feet. Leaves are broad and flat with edges prickly. Flowers vary from greenish yellow to almost red and these are the most attractive.

Hakea petiolaris is a large shrub to 15 feet in height and to about 10 feet across. It has broad leaves and purple pin-cushion flowers during early winter. It is a hardy species and well suited to most areas.

Hakea salicifolia (syn. *H. saligna*) is a bushy small tree of 10 to 20 feet or more high. It bears flat leaves which in the young stage may be bronze-coloured. Masses of white flowers appear during spring.

Hakea sericea (syn. *H. tenuifolia*) Silky Hakea is one of our hardiest species. It will grow in almost any position even to that which is wet in winter and very dry in summer. Foliage is short needle-like, with a sharp point. Flowers vary, often being white, but pink or red flowered forms are also available. The coloured forms usually flower a little later than the white, which is about May. Height is about 6 to 12 feet.

Hakea sulcata and *H. subsulcata* are two similar species with long narrow furrowed leaves and masses of purple to pink to white pin-cushion flowers during early winter. Height varies from 3 to 5 feet.

Hakea suaveolens (Sweet Scented Hakea) is a useful hedge plant, particularly in coastal areas. It makes a bushy shrub of 5 to 10 feet in height and width. Foliage is dark green, fine and much divided. White scented flowers appear scattered throughout the bush at most times of the year.

Hakea teretifolia is a hardy shrub of 4 to 8 feet. Leaves are thin and rounded. White flowers appear along the stems during summer.

Hakea trifurcata is a large spreading shrub 8 to 12 feet high. It has much divided terete foliage plus some broader leaves. Grey woolly flowers with a reddish style appear during late winter to early spring.

Hakea verrucosa has needle-like pungent foliage, a spreading habit and a height of 4 to 6 feet. Loose, red flowers appear during spring scattered along the old wood. Colour plate Vol. 5, pp. 377.

Hakea victoriae (Royal Hakea) is a large shrub 6 to 10 feet high and 4 to 6 feet across. It has very large, hard serrated, cup-shaped leaves which at times become very beautifully coloured. It is a foliage plant well suited to a hot dry position. The white flowers are deeply hidden in the leaves. Colour plate Vol. 5, pp. 185.

VICTORIAN GREVILLEA

GREVILLEA UNDER GARDEN CONDITIONS by M. Fisch

Though not as spectacular as some of the *Grevilleas* from other states, Victoria has quite a few very attractive ones, adaptable for various garden conditions, even in other states, where some of them naturally occur as well. I was most impressed to see *Grevillea steiglitziana* flourishing in Queensland besides northern *Grevillea* that we have not yet been able to grow well.

We have *Grevilleas* in all sizes, from ground-cover to sizeable trees. Starting with the latter I would recommend:

Grevillea barklyana, with its very decorative leaves, deep green on top, and silvery on the underside, often deeply lobed, almost resembling an oak leaf. Flowers are pink, of the toothbrush variety, not very showy, but the young leaves make up for it with their red to copper almost metallic sheen. It thrives in cooler conditions. I have seen shapely ones exposed to winds.

Grevillea victoriae, also prefers a cool place; various forms exist, most are larger shrubs with lovely red drooping clusters of flowers, practically flowering all the year round, though it is never quite covered in blooms.

Grevillea aquifolium* and *G. ilicifolia, are often hard to distinguish, both occur in various forms from semi prostrate to upright 6-8' bushes, often with very decorative foliage and nice, red "toothbrush" flowers.

Grevillea lavandulacea is well known as a garden plant with short grey leaves and brilliant pink to red flowers, suitable for a well drained warm position. It grows 3-4' high and is probably the showiest of our *Grevilleas*, a well grown plant in full flower is a sight to behold.

Grevillea lanigera is a similar plant, more consistent in its form with grey short leaves and pink and white flowers, 2-3' high and spreading.

Grevillea miqueliana is another very decorative, bushy plant, 3-6' high with oval green leaves and clusters of drooping brick red blooms, being an alpine, it also prefers a cool site.

Grevillea alpina is probably the most variable species of all *Grevilleas*, from semi prostrate to 5-6' high with variable mostly soft green, sometimes leathery, small leaves and equally variable flowers from almost pure white to white/pale green, white/pink, white/orange, wholly apricot, yellow/red, all red, etc. It's adaptable and does very well under garden conditions.

Grevillea confertifolia is a spreading shrub with needle-like dark green leaves and raspberry shaped and coloured flowers. It responds to pruning very well and is very showy when properly grown. There is also a compact form with slightly paler flowers.

Grevillea parviflora, a small dainty shrub with tiny pinkish/white flowers and dark narrow leaves, often flowers 2-3 times a year in garden conditions. It looks attractive, resembling a white veil amongst other bushes.

Grevillea chrysophaea, the Golden *Grevillea*, is a very handsome smaller shrub, 3-4' with clusters of fairly large golden yellow flowers, the leaves resembling *alpina*.

Grevillea polybractea is a larger shrub with neatly arranged clusters of terminal crimson flowers, leaves like *alpina*, but twice as long.

Grevillea oleoides* or *G. dimorpha, is a very good winter flowering plant with rich red blooms along the stem in leaf axils, flowers from late autumn till spring, leaves vary from broad to almost needle-shaped.

MINT BUSHES

GROWING MINT BUSHES IN MELBOURNE by Ross Macdonald

The purple flowers of *Prostanthera ovalifolia* have made mint bushes well known to Australian gardeners. It is one of the most beautiful of our spring shrubs.

Prostantheras like to be well drained, and like some summer watering until they are established. They are understorey shrubs, appreciating the dappled shade of eucalypts. Prune them after flowering, or better still, pick the flowers for indoors. You will then also be able to enjoy the fragrance of the leaves. Pruning gives increased hardiness and more compact new growth, so prune most species by up to one-third.

There are two main groups of *Prostanthera*. Those mentioned below all are doing well in Melbourne gardens.

Section 1.—*Euprostanthera*, with a short broad flower tube, a short upper lip and a wider longer lower lip containing a spreading middle petal. The calyx has 2 unequal lips.

Section 2.—*Klanderia*, with incurved floral tube dilated upwards, an erect concave upper lip, a shorter lower lip, and equal calyx lips. The *EUPROSTANTHERA* section is the largest and contains over 60 species.

Prostanthera ovalifolia is the most commonly grown and forms the well known dense bushes covered with purple flowers in spring. The pink flowered form is less robust, but a most dainty shrub.

Prostanthera lasianthos is our Victorian Christmas Bush and forms a small tree of white flowers, spotted purple. Its trunk is slender, occupying little garden room and it should be much more widely grown.

Prostanthera melissifolia, 6 feet, from the hills, had wider bluntly serrated leaves with mauve, pink or white flowers. It will flower quite well in the shade of eucalypts.

Prostanthera rotundifolia, 8 feet, is a hardy species with purple flowers. There is an attractive form with larger greyer leaves and larger flowers, and the variety 'rosea' growing to six feet with clear pink blooms.

Prostanthera sieberi, 5 feet, has mauve flowers, and likes a cooler site.

Prostanthera violacea is a favourite with most delicate small leaves and violet flowers. It grows to 3 feet and prefers shade.

Prostanthera incana, 5 feet, has lavender or white flowers and hairy leaves. It forms a compact bush.

Prostanthera stricta, 4 feet, has erect growth with deep violet flowers. It responds to pruning and should be tried more often.

Prostanthera hirtula, 5 feet. The variety *angustifolia* from the Grampians has mauve flowers. Natural crossing of this with *P. lasianthos* has produced some beautiful pinky-mauve offsprings which are being propagated at present.

Prostanthera denticulata is a little shrub with a variety of purple shades, a pink form from Stawell, and a rare white variety from the Whipstick. The N.S.W. form has layer leaves, and there is a prostrate type which forms a dense mat under Melbourne conditions.

Prostanthera rhombea, 4 feet, has heart-shaped leaves and needs summer moisture.

Prostanthera spinosa, 2 feet, has short spines and delicate mauve flowers throughout the summer. A good plant among rocks.

Prostanthera cuneata, 3 feet, comes from the high country and flowers in spring with white to mauve flowers.

Prostanthera linearis, 5 feet, flowers mauve or white, prefers some shade and water.

Prostanthera phyllicifolia, 4 feet, likes similar conditions. The flowers have a most appealing fragrance and I am sure will become very popular.

Prostanthera decussata, 3 feet, is a Victorian shrub with purple flowers, from the McAlister Range and Brisbane Ranges. A pink form is in cultivation and both do well.

Prostanthera baxteri, 4 feet, with grey leaves and white or mauve flowers, likes sun and will tolerate lime.

Prostanthera nivea, 6 feet, grows easily. White flowers in summer.

Prostanthera nivea induta, 6 feet, is similar, but with pale blue flowers and a large attractive calyx.

Prostanthera saxicola var. *bracteolata* (formerly *P. debilis*) is a shade lover from the Grampians and forms a neat bush to 3 feet.

Prostanthera striatiflora from the inland will flower well, but tends to become straggly after a time. The large striped flowers are spectacular.

Prostanthera megacalyx, 2 feet, has beautiful large violet flowers in summer. It is usually short lived in Melbourne, but strikes readily.

Prostanthera prunelloides, *P. caerulea*, *P. lanceolata*, *P. incisa*, *P. rugosa*, *P. densa*, *P. scutellarioides*, *P. lithospermoides*, *P. behriana*, *P. odoratissima*, *P. staurophylla* are at present under trial.

The Section **KLANDERIA** are small shrubs, ideal for rockeries.

Prostanthera walteri is the easiest grower. It has dark green leaves and green striped flowers.

Prostanthera microphylla with red flowers, and *P. microphylla* var. *aeruginosa* with blue-green flowers come from our dry north-west.

Prostanthera calycina from South Australia has orange-red flowers.

Prostanthera aspalathoides is the well known scarlet mint bush. It will have an odd flower all year, but blooms well throughout spring and summer. It should be in all gardens. Colour plate on front cover.

Prostanthera chlorantha and *P. leichhardtii*, both with greenish flowers are growing well under garden conditions.

Of the hybrids that are available, *P. x "Clearview David"* is a gem, with masses of white flowers in late spring. *P. x "Ragged Robin"* is one of the Poorinda hybrids, and has *P. staurophylla* as one parent. It grows to about 8 feet with large pale mauve flowers and attractive deeply indented foliage.

WILGA PARK — ARBORETUM & SANCTUARY

A unique part of the Australian flora is the dry area, mallee country flora. Our dry outback country is so vast that it is often necessary to travel many miles to see even a little of this flora. It is now possible to enjoy the expanse, the barrenness, the unique sand hills and the mallee flora at a sanctuary two hours drive from Mildura, near Swan Hill, Victoria. Wilga Park provides an 8 acre walk through arboretum for that pleasant stroll, and a 250 acre drive through sanctuary. Features of Victoria's desert heathland flora are 26 species of *Acacia*, 24 species of *Eremophila* (Emu Bush) and hundreds of other native shrub trees, many planted but growing naturally. Refreshments are available on site.

CULTIVATION OF THE GENUS CHILOGLOTTIS

by David L. Jones

A small genus of seven species all of which occur in Australia, with two extending to New Zealand. Details of the various species have been adequately dealt with in a previous issue of *Australian Plants*.

Chiloglottis are a fascinating group of orchids that grow in colonies, usually in protected situations. These colonies may be dense or loosely formed depending on the species. All have a pair of ovate-lanceolate leaves which lie flat on the ground. Their underground system consists of small bluntly ovate tubers and long fleshy white roots. These roots form new tubers at the tip. Few plants in the colonies flower and this characteristic continues in cultivation. The flowers of some species are very long-lived.

I have had experience with five species in cultivation and find three of them very easy while the remaining two can be grown under special conditions. Three of the species increase very prolifically while the other are much less robust. All species flower in cultivation although the proportion of flowering plants is generally small. At least one species has the excellent quality of producing flowers at almost any time of the year.

Before potting ensure that the drainage hole is covered and running free. Use an open compost that will also drain freely and ensure that some good partially broken down leaf-mould is present. I use a mixture of 1/3 bush loam, 1/3 coarse sand and 1/3 of the mould from under the Coastal Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*). The loam I have used in the past has been an acid sand from coastal areas. This is generally poor and results with Chiloglottis have been unsatisfactory. Three species grow well in it but flower poorly, the other two don't tolerate it. I have now switched to mountain soil and the results are much better. This is a heavy but well structured loam from mountain areas. It has excellent drainage and at the same time retains moisture in fine pores.

A couple of species are very sensitive to soil moisture fluctuations and quickly die down if they dry out while growing. These problems can be overcome by using mountain soil and plunging the pots to the rim in a bed of sand and peat moss.

With the three species that build up in numbers quickly I repot annually. Those that are less robust I leave go for a couple of seasons. I have noticed that all species respond well to liquid fertilizer although it doesn't appear to promote flowering. I have had little trouble with any pests on my plants but slugs and snails do relish them and aphids attack the flowering stem. Keep the slugs and snails away with baits and the aphids with a contact spray of pyrethrum.

Chiloglottis cornuta Hook. f.

This is probably the hardest species in the genus to grow. It comes from secluded shaded and damp high rainfall forests where conditions are continually moist and humid. It does not like drying out while above ground and even while dormant should not get too dry. It does best in a large pot of mountain soil mixture with the tubers buried deeply and the pot plunged to the rim. The buds come with the leaves as they appear through the ground and the flowers are very short lived and most unspectacular. The species reproduces slowly and can be left for a few seasons without repotting.



photography by A. E. Logan, Wagga, N.S.W.

Three species of *Chiloglottis*—Left to right: *C. gunni*, *C. prescottiana* and *C. trapeziformis*.

***Chiloglottis formicifera* R. D. FitzG.**

This is a vigorous species that is very easy to grow. It reproduces rapidly and soon builds up in numbers. Only a small proportion flower but the flowers are very attractive and long lived. Usually out of a pot of fifteen to twenty plants four or five will flower. I find it necessary to repot annually as parts of the pot become overcrowded and rotting can result at the junction of the two leaves and spread to other plants. The buds are formed long after the plants have appeared and matured. This species is not fussy as to drying out while growing, however it does grow better in a mountain soil mix.

***Chiloglottis gunnii* Lindl.**

This is another species from the cooler high rainfall areas of the state. It is fairly easy to grow preferring conditions similar to *C. cornuta*. It is slow to increase and a shy-flowerer. The buds appear with the leaves as they break through the soil. As with *C. cornuta* it does not like drying out while above ground. The flowers are large and very showy and overall it is a handsome species. Colour varies from green to reddish-brown.

***Chiloglottis reflexa* (Labill.) Druce**

A widespread species that grows easily and flowers well. It is fairly fast to increase but not quite as prolific as *C. trapeziformis*. Some of the tubers it makes are quite large for the genus—being about $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. Despite the fact that it is usually a coastal species growing in sandy soil I have found that it does best in a mountain soil mix. Here the tubers grow large and healthy and the plants appear more robust. This species has the ability to produce flowers at any time of the year. The flowers come with the new plants as they appear through the soil and new tubers apparently have the ability to shoot while still attached to the old plants. Despite my statement about it being easy to cultivate the species is very subject to rotting especially while the young leaves are still unfurling. Apart from these losses however the species still manages to increase in cultivation.

***Chiloglottis trapeziformis* R. D. FitzG.**

This species is undoubtedly the most vigorous in the genus. It reproduces prolifically and builds up in numbers very quickly. It doesn't seem to mind what mixture it is grown in provided that it is well drained. However I have found that it flowers best in mountain soil. As with *C. formicifera* the flowers appear in the spring long after the plants have matured. My plants are repotted annually to avoid the rot that invariably starts in crowded clumps.

NATIVES FOR WINDOW BOXES—cont. from pp. 142

In the meantime, others, admiring our small efforts but having much larger window boxes, asked advice: there *G. biternata* did extremely well, cascading down to ground level. It could expand its roots without pushing the bricks out. We also planted *G. fasciculare* besides *G. lavandulacea*, *Lechenaultia biloba* and *L. formosa* in various forms, *Dampiera*s and some of the smaller *Hibbertias*.

These window boxes, some of them even facing north are a delight to their owners.

Just imagine, how a colourful window box just outside the kitchen work bench creates a welcome diversion as you prepare your meals or wash up your mess afterwards. Two young boys I know (sitting at the breakfast table) were often delighted watching through the window the spine-billed honey-eaters on the *Grevillea lavandulacea* practically on eye level.

HIBBERTIA

CULTIVATION OF HIBBERTIAS by David L. Jones

Hibbertias must be one of the most complicated groups of all for amateur enthusiasts to identify. They occur in a bewildering number of species and each species occurs in a bewildering number of forms, often with more than one growing together. Very little has been published on them and many botanists hesitate to put a name to all forms. Nevertheless they are a very showy group of plants and a worthwhile addition to any garden. Most are rapid growing with the prominent flower colour being yellow although some from West Australia are a delightful orange. The flowers are very delicate only lasting a day or two but are produced in a fantastic profusion and the plants are rarely without some flowers. They prefer a sunny well drained position and for best results should be planted close together in groups. Some species make excellent rockery plants. In general they are susceptible to wind damage and should be angle staked with fine sticks. At my garden in Bayswater, Victoria they are also subject to sudden death usually without any prior warning. The cause I suspect is root attack by the fungus *Phytophthora cinnamoni*. This seems to occur without any real pattern and even plants in well drained situations are prone. My only remedy at present is to ensure that a stock of new cutting grown plants is continuously coming on for replacement. Some species appear more susceptible to attack than others; these include *H. sericea*, *H. aurea*, *H. subvaginata*, *H. cistiflora* and *H. fasciculata*. *H. asterotricha* is very resistant.

Propagation

Cuttings

Hibbertias are readily propagated from medium wood cuttings of the previous season's growth. My cutting frame simply consists of a fruit case covered with a piece of glass. The cuttings are placed in a 3:1 sand : peat mixture in 3" plastic tubes and strike in 6 to 8 weeks. The frame is kept where it only gets morning sun. With some species success is impaired by the bark tearing as the cuttings are being prepared. Leaves should be carefully cut off if this is noticed. Notorious here are *H. asterotricha* and *H. fasciculata*. Hormone powder appears to aid the striking.

Unfortunately the growth on plants in the bush is often completely unsuitable for propagation. In this case a small percentage may be struck from hardwood or whatever wood is available. These can then be propagated from as they grow although results from this method are usually disheartening. The regrowth of Hibbertias after fires is ideal and such material strikes easily. Small seedlings will often be found in similar circumstances and these transplant readily to a tube.

Seed

Hibbertias have a small round very hard seed that is extremely difficult to get to germinate. I have tried the usual methods of abrasion of the seed coat without any success and can only conclude the blockage is a complex one involving germination inhibitors. It is hoped to do more work in this field in the future.

The following are notes on species I have tried.

Hibbertia acicularis—a small stiff compact bush growing to about 2' high which has very dark green prickly leaves. It does well in an open

sunny situation and will tolerate long periods of dryness. Flower production is not as prolific as in some other species but it is still a very desirable garden plant.

Hibbertia asterotricha—this species is probably better known as *H. billardieri*. It is easily one of the best *Hibbertias* for garden culture as it forms a tough wiry bush about 18" high and up to 5' across. These bushes are extremely dense and if planted in a group the individuals soon intertwine and support each other. The leaves are small and rough and the tips of new growths take on a pleasing bronze appearance. The plants are vigorous and will spread about 4' in twelve months. Flowers appear at odd times through the summer with a massed display in spring. The flowers are deep yellow semi-cupped and make a pleasing contrast to the foliage. If planted behind wire netting against a fence this species will climb and can be induced to cover quite an area. It is very resistant to the sudden death complaint described earlier.



***Hibbertia fasciculata* in the Victorian Grampians—See pp. 178**

Hibbertia cistiflora—a little known species that seems to have potential for garden culture. My plants originated from cuttings taken from Mount William in the Grampians where the species grows in rock crevices and soaks at a fair altitude. In the garden it forms a neat bush to 2' high and about 18" round. The foliage is grey-green and slightly prickly while the new growth and stems are reddish. The flowers are about $\frac{3}{4}$ " across and are much paler than in other species. They are produced at odd intervals throughout the year but in spring appear in countless thousands. The results in my garden indicate that the species prefers a cool, shaded position and is best planted in groups.

Hibbertia cuneiformis—a spectacular species from W.A. with large toothed deep green leaves and deep golden flowers about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " across. The bush is woody and open with a tendency to trail or twine. The flowers are very large and attractive and borne at odd intervals through the year. All in all this is a very desirable species for the garden and seems to be hardy in most well drained positions.



Colour photography by Frank Hurley

Block by courtesy of John Sands Pty. Ltd.

HIBBERTIA AUREA

Hibbertia aurea—an extremely floriferous species from W.A. that seems very hard to keep going over here. It forms a compact bush about 18" high and has small rounded leaves about $\frac{1}{4}$ " long. The flowers are a deep golden yellow and borne in an incredible profusion in spring and autumn. A sheltered position such as one facing east seems to suit it best.

Hibbertia dentata—this is possibly the most attractive species in the whole genus. It is a scandant creeper or climber with large attractively toothed leaves that are deep red when young and later mature to a bronzy green. Throughout the year but particularly in the spring and summer large golden flowers about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " across contrast pleasantly with the dark foliage. The species lends itself well for use as a ground cover or a light climber and grows extremely rapidly but does not get out of hand. It will do well in any position but best results are obtained in areas protected from heat extremes. It will grow very happily in complete shade.

Hibbertia diffusa—another rare and little known species that must have excellent prospects for garden culture. It forms a neat upright bush to about 2' high, much after the manner of *H. fasciculata*. The leaves are small and deeply lobed and held close to the stem in an upright manner giving the plant a rather stiff appearance. The new growth is fleshy and succulent. Flowers are about $\frac{3}{4}$ " across, semi-cupped and a deep golden yellow. In spring they cover the plant in an absolute profusion. This species makes an ideal rockery plant preferring a sheltered position.

Hibbertia exutiaces—undoubtedly one of the gems of the Victorian bush and one of the best plants I know for a hot spot amongst the rocks. It ranges over most of the goldfields country and must be exceedingly tasty for it is always heavily browsed by Wallabies, etc. It has a low wiry spreading habit, growing to about 18" high. It may tend to straggle but responds well to cutting back. The leaves are very sparse and the plant turns on a spectacular display in spring.

Hibbertia fasciculata—a common species from a wide variety of habitats but usually in sandy soil. Response in the garden is variable, as it is a species very susceptible to the sudden death condition described earlier. A succession of seedlings or cutting grown plants is necessary in my garden, as the species does not seem to take kindly to clay soils. The leaves are short and very dense giving the bush a woolly appearance. Plants grow to about 15" tall and are at first upright but then the branches flop and may trail on the ground. Flowers are small, deep golden yellow and are borne over the summer months following a peak in the spring. In the Grampians there is a handsome robust form with longer blue green leaves while in the desert areas of N.W. Victoria they have short leaves scattered up the stem.

Hibbertia linearis—an extremely variable species embracing many growth and leaf forms. Leaves vary in shape from narrow-linear to broadly obtuse or obovate and in colour from reddish green to a deep glaucous green. Growth habits vary from a prostrate creeper to a rigidly erect bush 5' high. Flowers of all forms are very showy being large open and a clear yellow colour. In some forms the flowers are followed by reddish very attractive sepals and bracts. The prostrate and low growing forms are extremely good plants for the rockery.

Hibbertia procumbens—a completely prostrate species that spreads and may cover several square feet in area. It has fairly thin deep green leaves sparsely scattered over the branches. The flowers are borne near the top of the short upright stems and appear to be jutting out of the soil itself. The flowers are a golden yellow about $\frac{1}{2}$ " across and are born in profusion in the spring. This species makes an excellent rockery plant and although it will grow in sunny dry spots does best in sheltered areas. It will also grow in wet situations.

Hibbertia rufa—a fairly common species that seems to have very little to recommend it for garden culture. It forms a small scrambling bush very similar to *H. asterotricha*, but with pale green ovate leaves.

Hibbertia scandens—this is probably the best known species in the genus. It is a vigorous climbing plant with lanceolate deep green leaves about two inches long and large showy yellow flowers about the same diameter. These are borne at odd intervals throughout the year and make quite a splash of colour. It can be grown either as a climber or as an excellent ground cover plant and has the advantage that it will grow well in any position from full shade to full sun. Growth is very rapid and a single plant can cover an area 8' x 5'. It is extremely hardy and is one of the best climbers for planting under established gums.

Hibbertia sericea—this is another extremely variable species and has some fine forms for cultivation. All are attractive usually compact plants varying in height from 2'-4' with attractive hairy leaves $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. Flowers are borne in clusters on the tips of branchlets usually in a succession over the summer months and reaching a peak in spring. The branchlet tips are also crowded with leaves and bracts and give the plants a bunched appearance. Unfortunately this species is very subject to dying suddenly especially if planted in a hot position. My best plants are in easterly facing areas.

Forms—the local form from close to Melbourne grows about 18" high and has dark green leaves and bright golden flowers about $\frac{3}{4}$ " across. The Grampians form is probably the best. It forms vigorous rounded bushes to about 4' tall with grey very hairy leaves about $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. The flowers are very large for the species being up to 1½" across. Another form from the Little Desert and northern areas grows about 2'6" high and has rounded blue-grey leaves about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long that are not very hairy.

Hibbertia stellaris—much has been written about the cultivation of this lovely species from W.A. In my experience plants sited in hot positions invariably grow fast into a dense bush about 15" high, flower very poorly and die suddenly. In W.A. it apparently grows in ephemeral watercourses where its roots probably tap some underground moisture. Plants I have growing in a semi-shaded fairly moist position have grown much slower and have virtually not stopped flowering since planted two years ago.

Hibbertia stricta—another extremely variable species but an ideal garden plant. It usually forms a straggly twiggy or sprawling shrub from 18"-3' high with narrow-linear leaves scattered sparsely up the stem. Flowers are produced profusely at odd intervals throughout the year. In the garden it will tolerate full sun but it likes to clamber up through other low shrubs.

Forms—the form from close to Melbourne has greyish leaves about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and grows into a straggly bush about 18" high. A robust form from the Grampians grows to about 3' tall and has grey leaves about $\frac{3}{4}$ " long and flowers about the same diameter. Pale flowered forms seem fairly common. The showiest form is from Steiglitz, Victoria. This has bright green glabrous leaves and red stems. The flowers are a deep golden-yellow.

Hibbertia subvaginata—another attractive species from W.A. that only grows about 10" tall with an upright growth habit. The base of the leaf embraces the reddish stem and gives a very attractive pattern to the plant. Flowers are only $\frac{1}{2}$ " across but are a deep golden yellow and cupped. It is an ideal rockery plant preferring a semi shaded position.

Hibbertia virgata—a very handsome species that makes a good garden plant forming an erect bush to about 2' high. It is very good for growing amongst other plants and will take full sun or semi shade. The flowers are produced in large numbers and are very showy. The best form has deep green leaves but a blue-grey form from Little Desert is attractive.

MELALEUCA

MELALEUCAS IN MELBOURNE by G. H. Mattingley

The genus *Melaleuca* is of considerable interest to the home gardener because most of its species are hardy, adaptable and fast growing. Their habits range from low ground cover to lofty trees and there are many attractive subjects to be found within the range of dwarf to medium sized shrubs. Some of the larger species make admirable backgrounds for smaller plants in the garden, or can be used as screens or windbreaks, while others have sufficient beauty of form, or texture of bark to serve as specimens.

In some suburbs of Melbourne, notably the City of Nunawading, *Melaleucas* have been used successfully for street planting. *M. linariifolia* is favoured for more formal treatments in kerbside nature strips.

Melaleucas bear numerous flowers of bottle-brush or pom pom formation that range in colour from white through various shades of red and purple. As the common name Honey Myrtle suggests, they are nectar producers and attract native honey-eating birds into the garden.

Herewith a selection of *Melaleucas* that do well in Melbourne and can be recommended for planting elsewhere in Victoria.



Melaleuca squamea

A *Melaleuca* of the Grampians that grows in wet situations.

DWARF SHRUBS

***Melaleuca pulchella*.** $2\frac{1}{2}' \times 4'$. A beautiful, spreading, much-branched shrub with short grey-green leaves; covered with mauve, fringed and claw-like flowers in summer. Requires a moist open position.

***Melaleuca tricophylla*.** $1' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'$. A small, stiff, spreading shrub with narrow, grey, very hairy leaves. Flowers are terminal clusters, purple dusted with gold. Suitable for group planting in full sun in a well-drained position.

***Melaleuca violacea*.** $\frac{1}{2}' \times 3'$. A prostrate form, truly described as a ground-hugging plant. The pale branches closely follow surface contours, making it a gem for the rockery. Requires a moist, open position. Flowers violet.

MEDIUM-SIZED SHRUBS

***Melaleuca decussata*.** 8' x 6'. Several forms of this Victorian species are available. The best flowering form is a dense, stiff, many-stemmed plant with small, grey, narrow, pointed leaves. Another attractive form has rather sparse, blunt, blue-grey foliage on arching branches. Flowers are small mauve brushes in late Spring. Hardy and tolerates most soil conditions, but does best in the open.

***Melaleuca huegelii*.** 10' x 6'. A dense shrub with small, pointed, dark green, stem-clasping, leaves. Flowers in summer; the long cream brushes carried clear of the foliage. Become straggly unless pruned.

***Melaleuca hypericifolia*.** 7' x 6'. A hardy, strong-growing plant with an attractive weeping habit. The broad, oval, bronzy-green leaves tend to obscure the red brushes produced on the branches in spring and summer.

***Melaleuca incana*.** 7' x 5'. Soft grey foliage on weeping branches distinguishes this desirable plant. Flowers are numerous small yellow brushes in spring. Needs a well drained position, but otherwise hardy.

***Melaleuca lateritia*.** 5' x 4'. A bushy shrub with small, light green leaves on slender branches. Numerous glowing vermillion brushes appear during summer and autumn. Needs a moist position with plenty of sun.

***Melaleuca wilsonii***

***Melaleuca wilsonii*.** 4' x 6'. A hardy, spreading shrub from N.W. Victoria with dark green narrow pointed leaves. Long sprays of cerise flowers adorn the arching branches in spring. A worthy addition to any garden.

TALL SHRUBS

***Melaleuca armillaris*.** 15' x 10'. This graceful shrub has small, dark green leaves on long thin branches. The creamy white brushes appear in spring. Most suitable for screening unsightly areas or as a background.

***Melaleuca linariifolia*.** 15' x 10'. A handsome small tree with dense, mid green leaves and a white papery bark. Masses of white, fluffy flowers hide the foliage in summer. Hardy and adaptable. Grows very large with age.

***Melaleuca nesophila*.** 12' x 10'. Fast growing with dark green, oval foliage and a profusion of mauve terminal pom pom flowers in summer.

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EMU BUSH

EREMOPHILA IN NORTHERN VICTORIA by B. V. Curtis

[Mr. Curtis lives at Plambie, about 44 miles north of Swan Hill. He has established a fine arboretum here and is carrying out a great amount of experimenting with plants to discover those suitable for this type of country].

The Emu Bush or *Eremophila* (which means "desert loving") belongs to the *Myoporaceae* family and is found in the drier parts of Australia. Of approximately one hundred species eleven are recorded in Northern and Western Victoria. The Emu Bush can be a small tree, a shrub or a prostrate plant, the leaves vary in length from three and a half inches to a quarter of an inch and may be up to half an inch wide. They are usually flat but some are narrow and needle-like. The flowers are tubular, usually curved or sometimes flattened, and with five lobes. These are never regular in size and shape but there are usually two that are the same size. In species which face upwards the lobes are large; and in those that face down they are small. Flowers vary in size from one and a half inches down to half an inch in length and range through the full colour spectrum including green and also white. Some are spotted.

The fruit is a drupe which may have two or four seeds in a hard kernel. It is difficult to germinate the seed but most species can be struck from cuttings.

The following is a general description of the Victorian species with their localities and virtues as garden plants.

Eremophila longifolia "Berrigan Emu Bush". The most common species in the state, it is usually found on red clay flats or red loam soils; often in thickets. It is a large shrub but can grow into a small tree; leaves are very long with flowers large, dull red in colour but often spotted. The fruit appears like black currants and may form a carpet on the ground under the bush.

Eremophila bignoniiflora "Bignonia Emu Bush". Rare in this state found only on the Murray flood plains below the Darling Junction. Usually a willow like shrub that can also grow into a small tree, the leaves are long and wide and the flowers very large, light cream with a purple tinge and appear in early summer. It is an excellent shrub for a wet situation.

Eremophila oppositifolia "Wee-ooka" (aboriginal). Found on red loamy clay soils often in belah forest. It occurs only in the far north of the state and may be found near the Merbein irrigation settlement. It grows to six feet high with leaves thin and long. The flowers are large and cream with a red tinge. The calyx is very large and may be mistaken for a flower when the seed is setting. It is a good garden specimen.

Eremophila polyclada "Twiggy Emu Bush". Rare in this state but found on the Murray flood plains below the Darling Junction. It is an open shrub with sparse foliage; leaves are small and thin. It can grow to ten feet in height and has a profusion of flowers in early summer. The flowers are large, white with brown spots. It is very suitable for gardens, especially in wet situations.

Eremophila glabra "Dwarf Emu Bush". There are two main forms. One is a spreading bush up to five feet high and widely found on loamy soils, often under big mallee or belah, flowers are medium sized, dull orange to red. Some showy specimens can be selected for gardens. The other form is mostly prostrate and is usually found among mallee in the light sand ridges. It may grow up to three feet across. The leaves are smaller than the other form, hairy, sticky, crowded and a lighter green. The flowers are orange to lemon in colour, even green.

Eremophila maculata "Spotted Emu Bush". A dense, much branched shrub up to six feet high which is widely found along the Murray flood plains. The fruit is large and cork-like, obviously floats down in streams and is most likely carried by water birds because colonies of the bushes also occur out in the mallee areas in red clay hollows and flats that become swampy after heavy rains. The flowers are mostly orange and red, are relatively large, and spectacular when in large clumps. It grows readily from cuttings and is an excellent garden shrub which is suitable for hedges.

EREMOPHILA GLABRA

by K. Warnes

"One plant for the whole garden? Never!" you say. Perhaps you would be right, but in *Eremophila glabra* (R.Br.) Ostenf., we have a species differing so much in size and habit, so variable in leaf size, shape, colour and texture and with flowers in every shade of red, orange, yellow and green that it could certainly constitute a complete section.

The "tar bush" has long been known in cultivation under various names including *Stenochilus glaber* R.Br. and *Eremophila brownii* F.v.M., but the few cultivated forms give no indication of the complexity of this fascinating species. My collection currently includes plants from 32 different locations, which, allowing for environmental changes, covers about 25 forms, many of which are far superior to those available from nurserymen in this State. Most of these are South Australian collections ranging from Kangaroo Island in the south to Kingoonya in the north and from Watson and Yalata in the west to Winkie (near Berri) in the east. Five distinct forms, including one with large green flowers, remain in roadside vegetation within ten miles of my home at Owen, 50 miles north of Adelaide. Others have come from Broken Hill and Western Australia.

Possibly the most attractive shrub is one from Meekathara, W.A., with velvety white leaves and contrasting large red flowers. A striking prostrate form has bright green leaves and vivid yellow flowers. The Gawler Ranges form grows to 7' high and 8' wide but has only a few large flowers; near Narridy and again at Palmer it is 5' x 10' and smothers itself with blossom, while a form near Gawler covers a bank 30' x 10' and has layered into a dense carpet. On Yorke Peninsula is found a variant with characters of both *E. glabra* var. *viridiflora* (F.v.M. ex Benth.) Black and *E. subfloccosa* Benth., but must be included in the *glabra* complex. Others tend towards *E. hillii* Shaw, the magnificent shrub from Ooldea which was only described in 1968. *E. decipiens* Ostenf. is another species to have affinities with *E. glabra* and in this case the picture is often rather confused.

Results from five years' experimenting indicate that most forms root quite readily from medium wood or semi-hardened tips and as I am successfully growing plants ranging from 7" to 20" rainfall, and from sandhills to limestone flats, it does not seem fussy regarding soil or rainfall.

Surely here is a species worthy of further collection, cultivation, and study; a plant which with careful selection and development could become a common sight in many inland gardens.

Eremophila sturtii "Turpentine Emu Bush". An upright shrub of about five feet high, the leaves are fine and of medium length. Flowers are small and mauve. The calyx is relatively large and at first glance may look like a flower at seed set. Though common elsewhere it is rare in Victoria, found only on red soils near the lower Murray. A lone specimen has been found in the mid-Murray district at Boundary Bend.

Eremophila divaricata "Spreading Emu Bush". An open, often scraggy shrub up to three feet high, found along the high flood plains of the Murray and inland rivers. Its leaves are small, sparse, and the short lateral shoots die back to form hard points which makes the bush spiny. The flowers are small and mauve, appearing in spring.

Eremophila scoparia "Silvery Emu Bush". A symmetrical broom-like shrub with grey foliage and up to four feet high; flowers appear as small light blue bells throughout the whole year and particularly in spring. It is found under big mallee in the Raak area of the Sunset country. Two fine specimens can be seen 68 miles west of Mildura along the highway near the South Australian border. It is an excellent garden specimen, alone or along a border.

Eremophila crassifolia "Thick-leaved Emu Bush". A low spreading shrub with very short, thick leaves which are sometimes heart shaped. It is found in the south west part of the Sunset, north of Linga. The flowers are small and mauve.

Eremophila gibbifolia "Clubby Emu Bush". A small upright shrub, the leaves are stemless and appear more as small warts as they are very small. The flowers are small, mauve and very profuse in spring. It is found on Mt. Arapiles in western Victoria and like the previous species it is an interesting one to have growing, the more so if there are other Emu Bushes in the garden for purposes of comparison.

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VICTORIAN GREVILLEA UNDER GARDEN CONDITIONS—cont. from pp. 169

Grevillea repens, forms a good ground cover with its holly like foliage and deep red/green or almost maroon flowers.

There are 250 species of *Grevillea* in Australia and this includes many of high horticultural value as described in previous issues. Many are still under trial.



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***Grevillea rosmarinifolia*—"Rosemary Grevillea"**

Grevillea rosmarinifolia is very variable. Some forms have given it a bad name. However there are some very good forms, one having grey-green leaves and pink and white flowers. Some are so good that they have been given special variety or cross names. A very hardy and rewarding plant.

Propagation—Grow your own Grevillea

Grevillea may be grown from seed or cuttings without a great deal of trouble or special facilities. Past issues have described proven methods.

With seed use the same method for most *Proteaceae* which includes *Waratah*, *Banksia*, *Hakea*, *Isopogon*, etc. Prepare a clean 4 inch pot $\frac{3}{4}$ full with a clean coarse sand or a sterile medium. Place the seed on top and cover with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " of sand. Cover the pot with a piece of glass and keep in a sunny place out of the wind. Keep the sand moist and as the seed germinates slowly raise the glass. Damping off of seedlings is the main problem so keep in full sun, well ventilated and put a little fungicide in the watering water.