

Scaly Buttons

Leptorhynchos squamatus



Description:

Low growing wiry plant. Green tapering leaves slightly hairy, attached to wiry stems that are initially prostrate, then become erect. Flower stalks arise above leaves: up to 6cm. Bright yellow flower-heads with yellow florets overlapping pale green bell-shaped base to form a flat disc on top; in spring.

Cultivation:

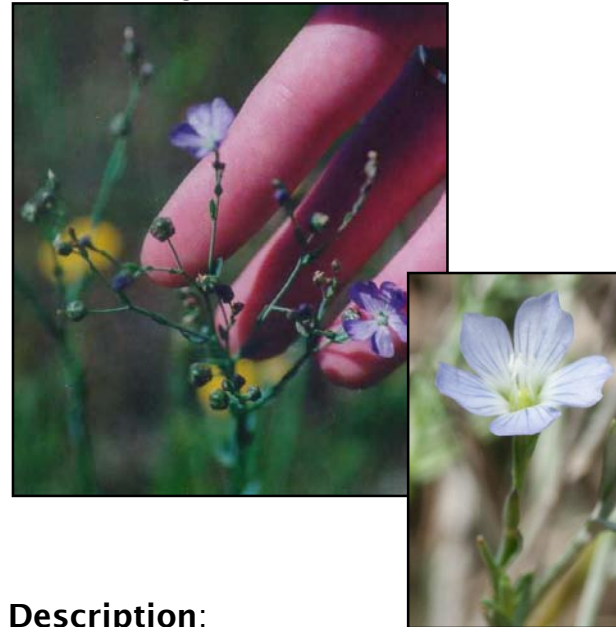
Perennial. Prefers heavier soils, especially in low lying areas. Prefers full sun. If in garden, may prune hard in growing season to rejuvenate.

Special Notes:

Found in grassland, heathlands and woodlands.

Native Flax

Linum marginale



Description:

Erect spindly plant: up to 60cm. Small smooth narrow tapered leaves grow along erect wiry stems. Open blue (occasionally white) flowers with five petals borne in loose terminal clusters in spring. Round five-celled fruit papery.

Cultivation:

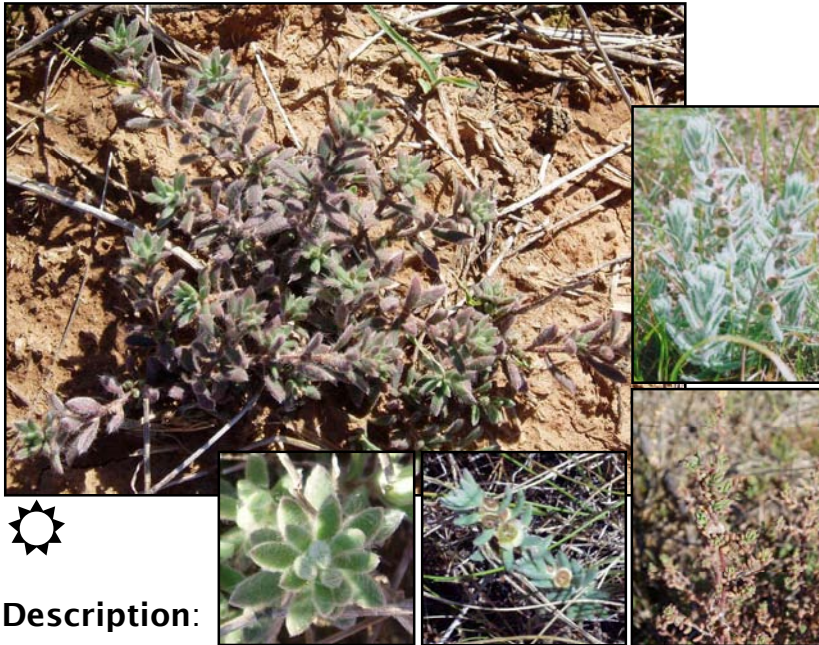
Perennial. May be short-lived but often self-seeds.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands, grassy woodlands and open forests. Aboriginals used fibrous parts of the plant for making cords and nets; seeds were used for food.

Bluebush

Maireana spp.



Description:

Blue-green plant, can be prostrate or erect. Pointed green leaves often fleshy, along stems. Insignificant solitary flowers borne at leaf base on ends of stems in spring. Fruit capsule often winged, seeding in dry summers.

Cultivation:

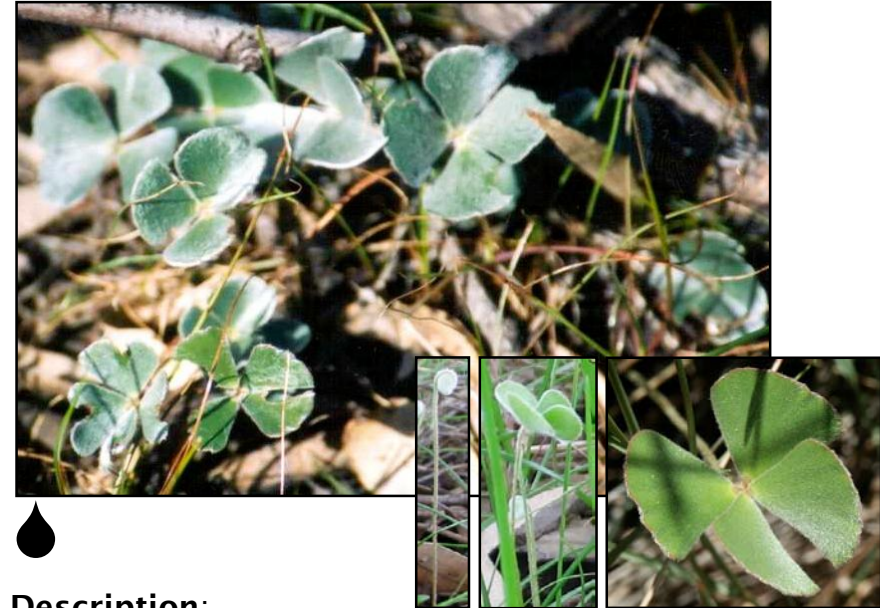
Prefers heavy soils such as clays.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands. There are several species of Bluebush in this area.

Common Nardoo

Marsilea drummondii



Description:

Grows in low, wide clump. Single large leaf grows on a thin wiry stem: up to 20cm long. Green leaves given grey-green appearance by fine hairs; circular, divided into four, giving a clover-like appearance. No flowers. Hard fawn-brown spore case is bean-seed shaped: up to 1 cm long.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers shallow water, muddy sediments and damp soils.

Special Notes:

Nardoo is a native fern, so has no flowers or seeds; reproducing via spores. Found along Murray River and adjacent waterways, in areas prone to inundation.

Yam Daisy

Microseris lanceolata



R

Description:

A short tufted plant with dandelion-like flower. Dark green tapering leaves forming small tuft. Leafless flower stalk: up to 30cm long, arises from leaves at base. Single bright yellow flower terminally borne - stalks droop when in bud, erect when in flower; mid-winter to spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Dies back.

Special Notes:

Once common. Root tubers were eaten by Aboriginals and probably formed a major part of their diet. Murnong is the Aboriginal name.

Slender Monkey-flower

Mimulus gracilis



●

Description:

Slender plant up to 25cm. Stems arise singly. Shiny dark-green oblong-shaped leaves grow in pairs along stem. Flower stalk arises from leaf/stem junction. Open mauve flowers with short tube and rounded petals borne singly in winter to summer.

Cultivation:

Prefers grey soil. Prefers moist conditions.

Special Notes:

Found on swamp margins, paddock depressions and other wet areas. Most abundant after heavy rains.

Smooth Minuria

Minuria integerrima



R

Description:

Bright green linear leaves form loose tussocks. Short flower stalks arise from end of branches. White-petaled flowers with yellow centre borne singly in spring. Narrow seeds topped with long bristles.

Cultivation:

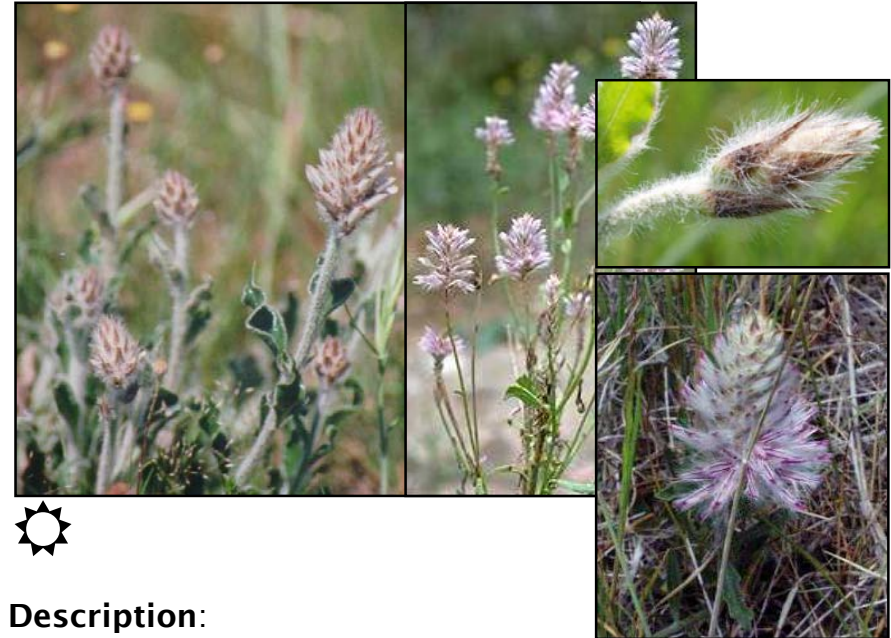
Perennial.

Special Notes:

Occurs as scattered plants or small colonies, often in shallow water or mud.

Lambs Tails

Ptilotus exaltatus



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Description:

Erect hairy plant: up to 30cm. Variable leaves tapered to egg-shaped, broader at base with leaves on branches and flower stems narrower and smaller. Purplish individual flowers straight and covered with silky hairs, collectively forming a hemispherical to oval shape, from winter to early summer.

Cultivation:

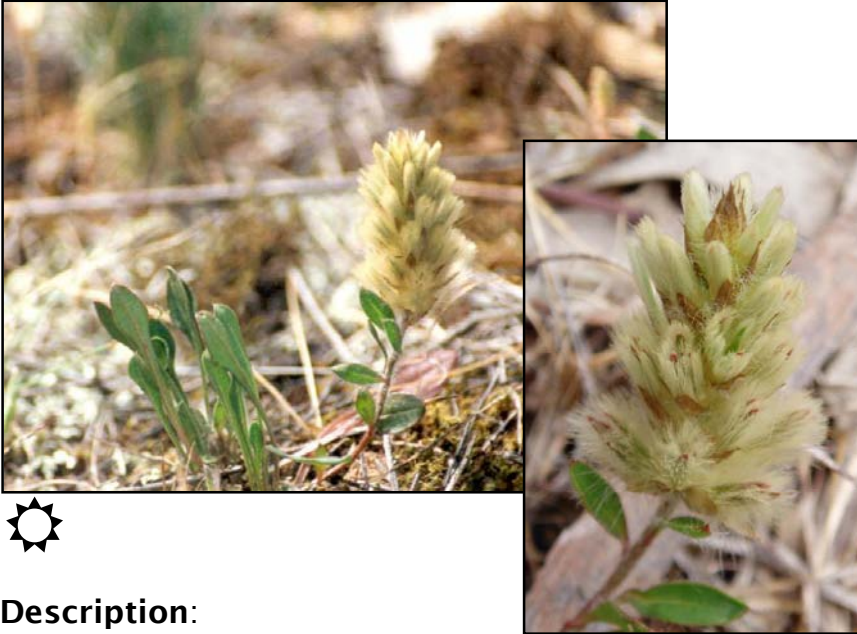
Perennial.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands. Mulla Mulla is the aboriginal name.

Pussy Tails

Ptilotus spathulatus



Description:

Small prostrate plant. Dark green spoon-shaped fleshy leaves, mainly at base of plant, but also along hairy stems. Greenish-yellow individual flowers cylindrical in shape, curve up from base to collectively form cone shape, late winter to early summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers clays and clay loams.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Drumsticks

Pycnosorus globosus



Description:

Silver-grey erect tussock but can form woody shrub: up to 60cm. Narrow silvery leaves: up to 12cm long becoming shorter along erect stems. Flower stems erect: up to 1m high. Oval to globular golden-yellow flower-head: up to 1.5cm wide, in spring to summer.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy soils. Prefers moist conditions. If in garden, cutting flowers may promote new growth and second flowering.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Paper Sunray

Rhodanthe corymbiflora



Description:

Slender silvery-grey plant: up to 30cm. Narrow soft grey-green hairy leaves lie close to branching stem: only one or two stems per plant. Fine multiple leafless flower stalks from main stem. White papery petals surround yellow centre of flower, in loose clusters in spring. Seeds in early summer.

Cultivation:

Annual. Prefers sandy or loamy soils in seasonally wet flats and depressions. Responds well to spring rains, flowering rapidly and then dieing, persisting only as seed until the next season.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands and amongst Black Box. Also called Grey Sunray.

Creamy Candles

Stackhousia monogyna



Description:

Simple structured erect plant. Narrow green linear leaves clustered along lower stems. Creamy five-petaled flowers surround top of stem forming 'candles' up to 10cm long in spring to early summer. Nocturnally fragrant.

Cultivation:

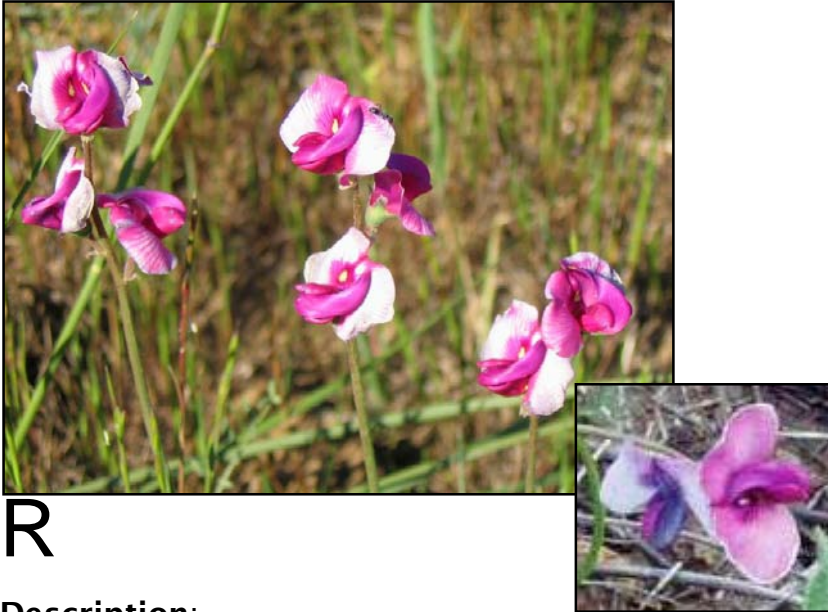
Perennial. Dies back to root stock over summer. Can form dense localised colonies.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands. Recovers quickly after fire.

Red Swainson-pea

Swainsona plagiotropis



R

Description:

Low spreading plant. Narrow green feather-like leaves. Large pea-like flowers with paler petals and darker coiled keel and has a sweet fragrance; in early spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy soils. Flowers profusely following good winter rain.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands. Unique to the Riverina.

Broughton Pea

Swainsona procumbens



S

Description:

Low spreading plant: up to 50cm. Green feather-like leaves from base of plant are hairless on upper surface, occasionally hairy beneath. Large, sweet scented, mauve to blue pea-like flowers with yellow tip to the keel which is coiled into a full circle in spikes of 3-9; in late winter to early spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Prefers heavy soils. Flowers profusely following good winter rain.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Silky Swainson-pea

Swainsona sericea



R

Description:

Prostrate hairy plant: up to 10cm. Divided green feather-like leaves are hairy. Red to purple pea-like flowers with slightly twisted keel in spikes of 2-8 flowers.

Cultivation:

Flowers profusely in spring following good winter rain.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and woodlands.

Leafy Templetonia

Templetonia stenophylla



R☀

Description:

Low straggling plant with one to several stems: up to 60cm. Green linear leaves. Dark purplish wedge-shaped buds opening to creamy yellow pea-like flowers with red-brown and green centres in spring.

Cultivation:

Prefers loam soils.

Special Notes:

Found in dry forests and woodlands, mostly along creek and riverbanks. Fixes nitrogen.

Grey Germander

Teucrium racemosum



Description:

Small grey-green plant, can be single stemmed or in tufts: up to 25cm. Narrow grey oval leaves with undulating margins on short stalks along square stems. Short flower stalk arises from leaf/stem junction. Five-lobed unusually shaped flowers and fine arching stamens in spring to autumn.

Cultivation:

Prefers grey soils.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands. Often found along channel or drain banks.

Sun Orchid

Thelymitra sp.



R

Description:

Variably coloured orchid. Single leaf linear to tapered arising from base of plant. Single flower spike may bear up to 15 flowers but only one opens at a time. Flower has six pointed petals and often distinctive central column.

Cultivation:

Re-grows annually from underground tubers. Flowers only open on warm still sunny days. Flowers may not open at all if self-pollinating.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Fairies Aprons

Utricularia dichotoma



Description:

Distinctive slender plant. Tall thin stems with terminal loose clusters of one to four purple fan-like flowers with yellow at base.

Cultivation:

Prefers heavy soils, such as clay, where water ponds.

Special Notes:

Found in grassy wetlands. Catches insects in basal traps.

New Holland Daisy

Vittadinia spp.



Description:

Erect branched silvery small shrub: up to 40cm. Grey-green leaves along stems are variably shaped. Small pale blue to mauve flowers borne terminally for most of year, usually in early spring in northern Victoria and southern New South Wales. Narrow ribbed fruits.

Cultivation:

Can be perennial or annual. Requires well drained soils.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Rigid Panic

Whalleya prolata



Description:

Erect, often loose tussock: up to 40cm. Flat bright green leaves, narrow and pointed: up to 10cm long borne on upward spreading stems. Flower spike protrudes beyond leaves: to 1 m high. Distinctive branched flowers spread widely at maturity in spring. Individual heads give appearance of delicate Christmas tree. Seeds on long fragile stalks remain attached to head which becomes windblown at maturity.

Cultivation:

Perennial. Heavy soils.

Special Notes:

Particularly common on wet sites. Seed heads can pile up against any barriers in their way when windblown. Aboriginals ground seeds for flour.

Common Early Nancy

Wurmbea dioica



Description:

Slender plant with distinctive flowers: up to 10-12cm. Fleshy bright green narrow leaves from base. White six-petalled open flower with distinctive band of purple encircling centre: in groups of three to five in winter to early spring. Seeds in spring.

Cultivation:

Perennial that dies back and re-sprouts annually from tuber. Prefers grey soils.

Special Notes:

Found in grasslands and grassy woodlands. In arid areas, flowers can be greenish-yellow. Also called Bulls-eye.