

## P LANTING OUT— SMALL IS BEST

Many Western Australian plants have not only small surface roots but deep penetrating roots as well. When a local native plant is grown in a pot for any length of time, the strong penetrating roots grow around the pot. When planted in the garden the root stay near the surface and the plant needs regular water and fertiliser for the rest of its life. If a plant is put in the garden when quite small, some roots will head straight down towards the water table and others out into the surrounding soil. It will soon become self sufficient.

Select the position for your plant carefully paying heed to its eventual height and width. Make sure the pot is watered thoroughly—one method is to soak the pot in a bucket of water while you are preparing the planting hole. Make the hole the same size as the pot. Tap the bottom of the pot to remove the plant with a minimum of disturbance to the root ball. Place in the hole, fill in and firm gently around the plant. A little slow release native fertiliser can be added if desired. Water in well, making the plant slightly below ground level so the water is directed at the plant.

A mulch around the plant is of great benefit especially in summer to stop the plant drying out too quickly and to retard weed growth.

Most native plants will survive throughout the summer without watering once they have become established. It is essential to water them during summer for the first couple of seasons until they become established. If you only have a few plants, a good way to water is to sink a piece of stormwater pipe or something similar into the ground near the plant and fill it a couple of times a week. With larger areas, trickle irrigation is the best way to go. This ensures the water is directed to the base of the plant where it is needed and is not as wasteful as overhead watering.

Watering must be thorough – it must penetrate below the surface soil so that the plant doesn't come to rely on surface moisture only. Try to group plants with similar water needs together. Plants that come from areas which receive rainfall in summer such as those from the south coast, will need summer watering while those from the sandplains can manage without. If you have an established garden with mixed species, a thorough watering once a week in summer will benefit most plants.

## P UBLICATIONS:

### Peel Region Wildflower Walks

No. 1: Heathland Walk - Yalgorup National Park

No. 2: Estuary Walk - Len Howard Conservation Park

Newsletter

Wildflower Notelets

Wildflower Greeting Cards

### Brochures

Aims & Activities

Propagating Native Plants

## M ANDURAH WILDFLOWER GROUP INC.

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Cliff Carson	9582 1593
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Ted Rushton	9535 3137
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Lyn Patterson	9739 1327
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Muriel Ming	9586 3340
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Dot Hodgson	9535 2108
	Sue Taylor	9534 5997
	Annette Clarkson	9534 8702
	Vivien Wells	9581 7927
<b>PLANT SALES:</b>	Ailsa Johnson	9581 4627
<b>EVENTS:</b>	Ted Rushton	
<b>STOCK:</b>	Vivien Wells	9581 7927
<b>PUBLICATIONS:</b>	Lyn Patterson	
<b>CARD SALES:</b>	Lyn Patterson	
<b>MEDIA SPOKESMAN:</b>	Ted Rushton	

**MEMBERSHIP:-** Annual Fee \$5.00  
Meeting Fee \$2

Correspondence to:

P O BOX 792 MANDURAH 6210

Email: [mwginc@bigpond.com](mailto:mwginc@bigpond.com)

Website: [www.mwg.green.net.au](http://www.mwg.green.net.au)

*Cover photograph: Templetonia retusa*

Photograph © Annette Clarkson & MWGInc 2004

Design © Lyn Patterson & MWGInc 2004

# MANDURAH WILDFLOWER GROUP INC.



## PROPAGATING NATIVE PLANTS