

BLACK MOUNTAIN ten plants

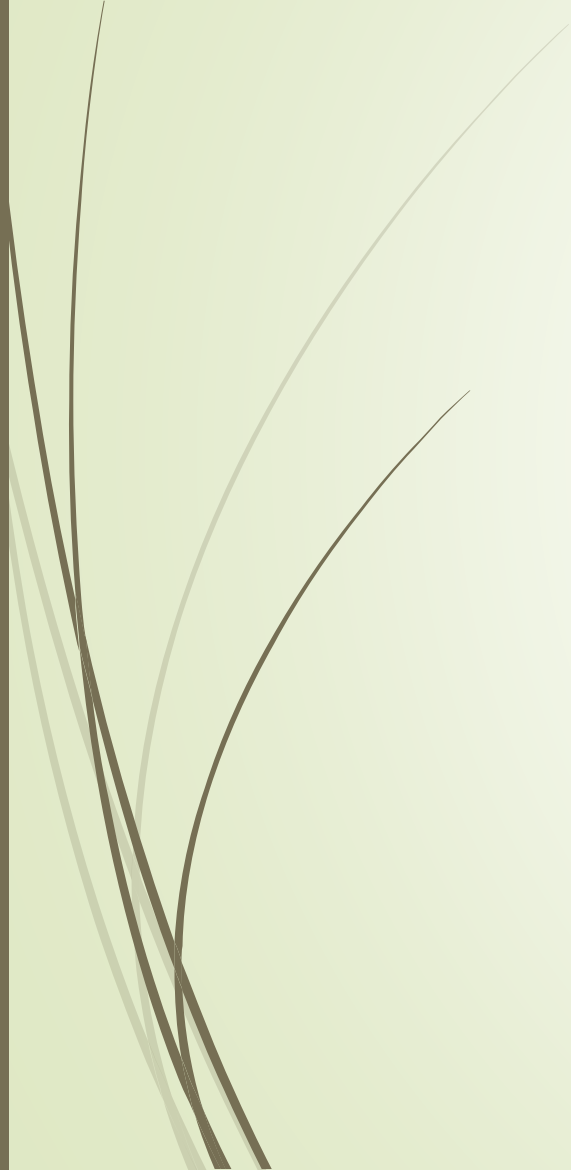


Acacia implexa

Hickory Wattle



- **Family:** Mimosaceae
- **Description:** Tree grows to 10m high or more with a bushy crown. Has very dark coloured and rough bark - more so at the base and smoother above.
- Leaves (phyllodes) are light green and droop sickle shaped with 3 to 7 prominent longitudinal veins 7-18cm long and 2.5 to 6cm wide.
- Borers may be an issue in older trees,
- Species name (*implexa*) refers to the gnarled appearance of the seed pods
- **Cultivation:** from seed that should be soaked in boiling water before sowing.
- **Distribution:** coast and ranges from Queensland to Victoria, also King Island in Bass Strait
- **Uses:** Excellent tree for erosion control, develops quickly,
- Can be grown for timber harvesting.
- Parrots and silvereyes eat the seedpods and seeds. Pollen for bees.
- Foliage and bark was used as a fish poison by Aboriginal people, because it contains saponin.



Calochilus platytilus

Purple Beard Orchid

- ▶ **Family:** Orchidaceae
- ▶ **Name:** derived from Ancient Greek *Calochilus* meaning “beautiful lip” *platytilus* meaning “flat” “lip”
- ▶ **Description:** Spring flowering habit; plants single; leaf single; erect. Leaves 150-400mm x 8-12mm. Flower stem 150-450mm tall. Flowers 1-9, green to brown with reddish-purplish stripes and purple labellum hairs.
- ▶ **Cultivation:** Difficult. Maybe by seed.
- ▶ **Distribution:** Open forest and heathy forest in well-drained shallow clay loam. Queensland, NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS
- ▶ **Uses:** Most orchids have an edible tuber.



Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia

Rock Fern

- ▶ **Family:** Pteridaceae
- ▶ **Name:** (*cheilos*), meaning "lip," and (*anthos*), meaning "flower."
- ▶ **Description:** Dainty much divided fronds 30-40cm high, dull to bright green, endemic to Australia. Fronds die down in summer and return with the rain in autumn
- ▶ **Cultivation:** by sub-division of rhizome. Difficult by spores. Although tolerates dry conditions better growth achieved when ample water is well-drained position in full sun or part shade.
- ▶ **Distribution:** Throughout Australia, NZ, southeast Asia. On rocky sites near streams or moist areas. Once common Australian understory plant now widespread in remnant bushland. Significantly affected by land clearances and competition from invasive species.

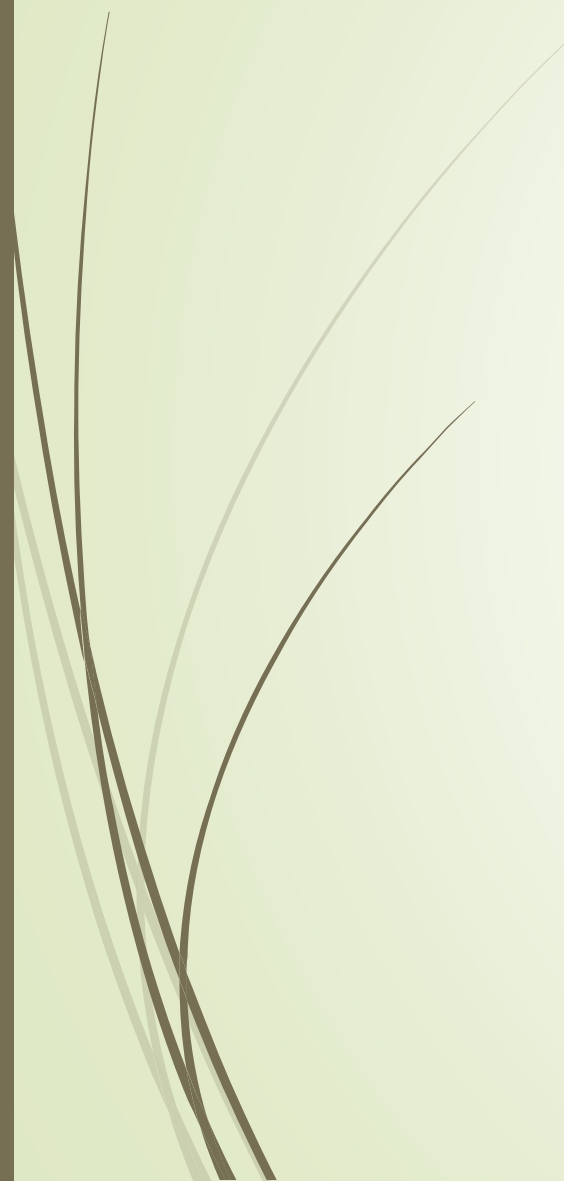


Chrysocephalum semipapposum

Clustered Everlasting, Yellow Buttons



- **Family:** Asteraceae
- **Description:** A perennial herb in the family Asteraceae.
- Grey to green leaves, which vary in width from quite fine to a coarser leaved form.
- It produces yellow terminal flower heads in clusters, mainly between spring and early summer. The flower heads remind one of small buttons. If picked too late the flower will continue to open and the seeds will fluff out.
- **Cultivatoin:** readily from seed. Good in a cottage garden setting. Hardy in most situations and grows in full sun to filtered or part sun.
- **Distribution:** all Australian States, Territories
- **Uses:** not highly palatable. Nectar for butterflies



Comesperma volubile

Love creeper



- **Family:** Polygalaceae
- **Description:** Climber, 1-2m high. Leaves 10 to 50mm long and 1 to 5mm wide. Blue or pale purple sprays of flowers July to December in its native range
- **Cultivation:** Very difficult to propagate. Good drainage in partial shade.
- **Distribution:** heathland and forest in QLD, NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, SA, WA.

Eucalyptus rossii

Scribbly Gum



- **Family:** Myrtaceae
- **Name:** Named after science teacher William John Ross (1850 - 1914), a member of the Clunies Ross family. Ian Clunies Ross, one of his sons, was a distinguished scientist and administrator at CSIRO becoming Chairman in 1949.
- Common name refers to brown scribble markings made on its light trunk by moth larvae as they burrow under the outer bark.
- **Description:** Small to medium tree to about 15 m. Usually a straight solitary trunk. Smooth yellowish bark.
- Insect "scribbles" on bark.
- Another identifying feature is the 'wrinkles under the armpits' - the wrinkles that appear just below the base of branches off the main trunk.
- Leaves green to greyish-green and up to 150mm long.
- White flowers in clusters of 5-12 that flower December to February.
- **Cultivation:** By seed. Takes 5 – 28 days to germinate at 25C.
- **Distribution:** Across NSW Tablelands and Western Slopes as well as Central Slopes.
- **Uses:** The timber has little commercial value.



Hakea decurrens

Bushy needlewood

- ▶ **Family:** Proteaceae
- ▶ **Name:** Latin, *decurrens* meaning prolonged below the point of insertion of the leaf on the stem.
- ▶ **Description:** Shrub to 0.3 to 2m tall. Branchlets sturdy, bright red to reddish brown. Leaves cylindrical, sharp-tipped, 22-45mm long, 1-1.5mm wide, more or less at right angle to the stem. Pale cream to white flowers 8-10mm long, May to September. Fruit 20-35 mm long, follicle, ovoid to obovoid, persistent, lower section rough and warty, beak with two horns, Fruiting December to February.
- ▶ **Cultivation:** hermaphroditic.
- ▶ **Distribution:** Woodland. widespread endemic west of Great Dividing Range in NSW, ACT, Vic, and Tas. Naturalised in parts of SA.



Stypandra glauca

Nodding Blue Lily

- **Family:** Hemerocallidaceae
- **Name:** from Greek, *styp* for flax fibres, *aner* man staminal filament hairs which are beard like in appearance; *glauca* meaning “sea green” colour in leaves.
- **Description:** Variable tufted plant producing long leafy stems to 1m, with linear sheathing leaves up to 20cm long arranged in opposite rows.
- Bears blue flowers with yellow anthers in slender sprays near the end of the stems in spring.
- **Cultivation:** by division; by seed has proved difficult.
- **Cultivation:** Needs a relatively dry position with some shade. Remove old stems.





Thysanotus tuberosus

Common Fringe-lily



- ▶ **Family:** Asparagaceae
- ▶ **Name:** Greek *thysanotos*, fringed, in reference to the flowers.
tuberosus; From Latin for a swelling, referring to the tubers on the roots
- ▶ **Description:** A perennial herb endemic to Australia. 15 to 20cm branching then to produce clusters of flowers in spring and summer. Grass-like leaves are linear shape and round at cross section towards the top. Purple glowers with three petals and long-fringed margins and only last for one day. Tuberous root. They are among the more colorful wildflowers in all states except WA.
- ▶ **Cultivation:** from seed or by division. Sunny well-drained position is required.
- ▶ **Distribution:** from semi-arid parts of south eastern Australia to coastal areas receiving more than 1300 mm of rain per year. They are often found in open country, heathlands or in dry sclerophyll woodland.
- ▶ **Use:** crisp tasting edible root

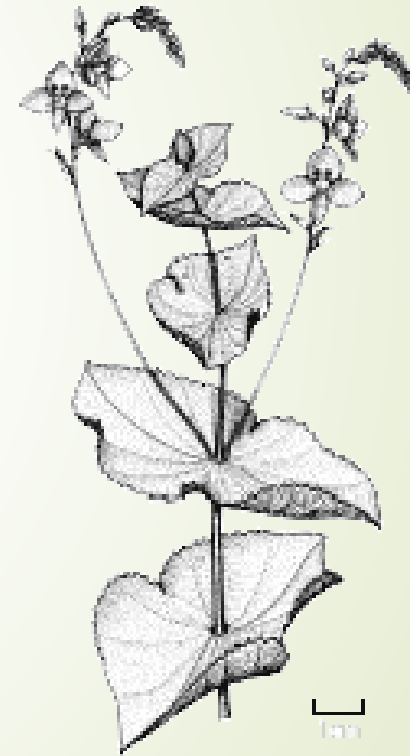
Veronica perfoliata

Blue Veronica, Digger's Speedwell



- **Family:** Plantaginaceae
- **Name:** *perfoliata* - leaves, wrapping around the stem, so the stem appears to be passing through the leaf, or in this case a joined pair of leaves
- **Description:** Perennial to 60cm high spreading to 1m across.
- Arching stems of grey-green, ovate, stem-clasping leaves to 5cm long.
- Nodding sprays of bright blue flowers in summer.
- **Cultivation:** from cuttings or by division. Needs well-drained site in half shade. Remove old stems after flowering. Has value as container plant
- **Distribution:** Mainly NSW, ACT, Vic

Veronica perfoliata
Blue Veronica, Digger's Speedwell





Acknowledgements

- ▶ Beveridge, Linda; Fitzhardinge, Jocelyn; Heyde, Beth; Melano, Cecilia; Morton, Tricia; Plaistowe, Matt and Sharp, Penny (2017) *Australian National Botanic Gardens Bushland Nature Walk - Guides Notes*
- ▶ Cosgrove, Meredith. (2014) *Photographic Guide to Native Plants of the Australian Capital Territory*. Meadow Argus.
- ▶ Wikipedia
- ▶ Wrigley, Alan & Fagg, Murray (1979) *Australian native plants: a manual for their propagation, cultivation and use in Landscaping*. Sydney, London, Collins.
- ▶ Photographs by Murray Fagg, Jean Geue, Rosemary Purdie



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Quiz answers

- 1 ➤ *Thysanotus tuberosus*
- 2 ➤ *Comesperma volubile*
- 3 ➤ *Eucalyptus rossii*
- 4 ➤ *Acacia implexa*
- 5 ➤ *Stypandra glauca*
- 6 ➤ *Calochilus platychilus*
- 7 ➤ *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*
- 8 ➤ *Veronica perfoliata*
- 9 ➤ *Chrysephalum semipapposum*
- 10 ➤ *Hackea decurrens*

BLACK MOUNTAIN a special place

