

## Heart-leaf Flame Pea *Chorizema cordatum*



### NATIVE PLANT NOTES

#### Description

*Chorizema cordatum* can be somewhat straggly in habit, reaching 1.5 m in height but usually less in cultivation. It benefits from having close neighbours that can support its branches. The foliage is attractive. It has longish leaves with wavy margins that are slightly prickly. It is not a long-lived plant but given conditions to its liking makes a magnificent floral display and will probably set seed.

#### Flowers

Flowers may appear anytime from July onwards into late spring. They have a 'standard' petal that in this case is orange. The other petals are a striking pinky-red. The combination of colours is unusual and very attractive. Flowers are 10–15 mm wide.

#### Growing conditions

This *Chorizema* is found in most of the wetter parts of the south-west region. It does not mind damp conditions but not water-logged, so soil should be free draining. It tolerates full sun if well mulched in summer, but performs very well in the shade. Planting time, as for most plants, is after the soil has cooled down a little and there is the prospect of autumn and winter rains.

#### Watering

Always ensure that the plant has adequate water while it is establishing itself. Plants obtained from nurseries and garden centres do not initially have the same resilience as those that have grown naturally in the bush. For the first summer they will require supplementary watering.

#### Pruning

Pinching out the growing tips from an early age is advisable to establish a good bushy habit. Plants may be lightly pruned after flowering but if the seeds are to be collected pruning should be delayed until seeds have been harvested.

#### Fertiliser

Apply a slow-release native plant fertiliser sparingly at planting time, when buds appear and after flowering.

#### Pests and diseases

The plant may be attacked by woolly bear caterpillars and slaters in some gardens but is generally not susceptible to pests and diseases.

#### Miscellaneous information

*Cordatum* refers to the heart-shaped leaves.



#### Further Information

*Gardening Advisory Service*, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners. Phone: 9480 3672 or Email: [garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au](mailto:garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au).

*Pest and Diseases Information Service*, Department of Agriculture and Food. Freecall 1800 084 881  
Email: [info@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@agric.wa.gov.au) or visit [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au).