

## Pink Paper-daisy *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* subsp. *rosea*



### NATIVE PLANT NOTES

#### Description

The Everlasting is an erect annual herb to 50 cm with daisy flower heads and light to mid-green foliage, sometimes with a bluish tinge.

#### Flowers

The flowers, of up to 45 mm across, range from crimson through pink to white with yellow or black centres. The best display is achieved by mass planting.

#### Growing conditions

Everlastings are best grown in sandy soils, in full sun. They also grow well in containers using a good quality native plant potting mix. Seed is best sown in May and can either be directly sown into a garden bed or into a seed-raising mix and planted out when about 30 mm high.

#### Watering

It is important to keep the soil moist once seed is sown and to water regularly until flowering. Overhead watering when in flower will cause the flowers to close up (They will open again once dried out.) Stop watering when flowers are spent and allow them to dry out completely if you wish to collect the seed.

#### Pruning

The first flush of flowers are best for drying, and picking these will encourage more flowering.

#### Fertiliser

Regularly apply soluble, all-purpose fertiliser at half strength until flower buds start developing. Applications of slow release native blend 3–4 month fertiliser and the use of blood and bone can all help ensure optimum growth. The richness of your garden soil will determine the quantities of fertiliser required.

#### Pests and diseases

Everlastings need protection from snails and slugs, as they are highly susceptible to attack. It is best to rid your garden of these pests a few weeks prior to sowing.

#### Miscellaneous

Everlastings may be dried by hanging the flowers upside down after cutting, and will last for a long time.

In the garden they attract many bees and other pollinating insects. The flowers open fully in sunshine, but will close up in overcast or wet conditions, and at night. The seed may be collected and stored in a dry area either in a hessian sack or a paper bag. It is best collected towards the end of the growing season when the centre of the flower reveals white fluffy seeds.



#### Further Information

*Gardening Advisory Service*, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners.  
Phone: (08) 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).