

Woolly Bush *Adenanthos sericeus*



NATIVE PLANT NOTES

Description

The Woolly Bush is a large upright shrub that grows from 0.5 m to 5 m high by 2 m wide. Its soft, silver-grey foliage provides an attractive contrast in the garden. It can be grown in a range of conditions, including coastal areas.

Flowers

The small, red flowers on this plant are almost inconspicuous, but they are a great source of nectar for small honeyeaters throughout most of the year.

Growing conditions

This species thrives on coastal sands and right through to heavy soils, providing the site is free-draining. It is best grown in full sun but is highly adaptable and can cope with semi-shade to create an under-storey. A shady position, however, will cause plants to become 'leggy' and more regular pruning is required to maintain shape and form. Autumn and winter are the preferred planting times.

Watering

Once established, this plant is very hardy and in some situations needs no supplementary summer watering. Open mulch will help to conserve moisture.

Pruning

The Woolly Bush is able to be hedged and shaped to suit any situation within the home garden. It is highly responsive to pruning and mature plants can even tolerate severe major limb removal to stimulate development of new foliage.

Fertiliser

Apply slow release native blend 8–9 month fertiliser at planting and annually as required in spring.

Pests and diseases

This plant is vulnerable to borers within the major stems and small growing tips. The Woolly Bush is also susceptible to dieback (the soil-borne fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*) as well as sometimes having minor issues with mealybugs. In general it is a hardy performer.

Miscellaneous

This Western Australian species is soft to the touch and a worthy inclusion in most gardens. It should perform well for up to 10 years before it will require replacing. It may also be grown in a large tub and shaped for a Christmas tree!



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.

Pest and Diseases Information Service, Department of Agriculture and Food.
Freecall 1800 084 881 Email: info@agric.wa.gov.au or visit www.agric.wa.gov.au.