

Geraldton Wax *Chamelaucium uncinatum*



NATIVE PLANT NOTES

Description

Geraldton Wax plants are fast-growing, large shrubs that, over ten years or more, can grow to a height of 4 m and a width of 4 m in the home garden. They are attractive when planted in a group, as individual specimens or used as a hedge.

Flowers

This species flowers profusely in the spring months in colours ranging from white through to deep purple. Individual flowers can be as large as 25 mm across.

Growing conditions

The Geraldton Wax is a proven performer in all soil types provided there is good drainage. This plant thrives in gardens close to the sea but protected from the wind. It is best planted in autumn/winter in a sunny position.

Watering

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

Pruning

The Geraldton Wax is highly responsive to pruning. Regular tip pruning during establishment will produce a good bushy form. To maintain well-shaped flowering plants it is advisable to cut back one-third of the foliage each year after flowering.

Fertiliser

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

Pests and diseases

This species is susceptible to dieback (the soil borne fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*), although this is not common.

Miscellaneous

Geraldton Wax has been the focus of a number of plant breeding projects and it is sold worldwide as a cut flower.



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.