

Maxwell's Grevillea *Grevillea maxwellii*



Description

This very attractive grevillea with a semi-prostrate layering habit and width of about 1 m is known naturally from only one small area of the south coast of Western Australia. Its survival is threatened in the wild. The foliage is dense and prickly and usually a deep green but some forms are green-grey.

Flowers

These appear in spring and are a bright orange-red that contrasts well with the foliage, particularly as they are usually prominently displayed. Nectar-seeking birds love this plant during its flowering season and are constant visitors to it.

Growing conditions

G. maxwellii grows naturally in loamy soils and in the garden would prefer an acidic to neutral soil in a sunny, well-drained site. If soil is very alkaline it can be grown and displayed very well in large tubs. Plant when winter rains are near and keep moist until established. It can withstand light frosts and dry periods.

Watering

Once the plant has settled in, watering should not be necessary as long as there is soil moisture available during prolonged dry weather. An open mulch assists in conserving soil moisture in summer. Water only at roots, not overhead.

Pruning

The only pruning necessary for this plant would be in the interests of tidiness as it is naturally compact.

Fertiliser

Apply slow-release, native-blend fertiliser at time of planting and annually as required in the spring months.

Pests and diseases

Grevilleas in general may be susceptible to 'dieback' (the soil-borne disease caused by the organism *Phytophthora cinnamomi*). The best means of minimising the possibility of infection is to source plants from registered suppliers and to plant in free-draining soil.



Miscellaneous

This is an ideal plant for growing as a feature in rockeries. It is named after George Maxwell, who collected many specimens from the south coast in collaboration with James Drummond, the first government naturalist in Western Australia.

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