

Plant of the Month

October
2021

Name: *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* subsp. *rosea* (Hook.) Paul G. Wilson
Common Name: Everlasting or Paper Daisy
Family: Asteraceae
Genus: from the Greek, *rhodo* - rose coloured, *anthos* - flower
Species epithet: from the Greek, *chloros* - green and *cephale* - head, refers to green bracts on the type specimen



Distribution

Native to the semi-arid region of south Western Australia extending into South Australia.

Native Habitat

Grows on sandy soils inland from the coast.

Description and Flowers

Erect annual herb, growing 20 - 60 cm tall with hairless grey-green stems and mid-green leaves 1 - 6 cm long. Stems end in terminal daisy flowers ranging from white to crimson in colour. Flowers open fully in sunshine, but will close in overcast or wet conditions. Flowers close at night. Fruit is dry and fluffy, with fine, filamentous hairs (pappus) attached to the seed aiding in wind dispersal.

Location in Garden

Adjacent to the Boy with Thorn statue.
Australian Rockery.

Use our new Garden Explorer plant finder at:
<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Visit/Garden-Explorer>

Information

These ephemeral spring wildflowers create a striking show in the wild and in cultivation where they can carpet large areas.

They are best grown from seed sown directly in Autumn. Best results are achieved by mixing 3 grams of seed with half a bucket of 50% sand and potting mix for each square metre of garden bed. Broadcast the seed/soil mix evenly across the surface of the prepared garden bed. The sand mix will help keep the seed from drying out. Keep the soil surface moist until germination (approx. one week) and protect seedlings from snails and slugs. When plants are 10-15 cm high apply a general purpose liquid fertiliser every three weeks.

Cut and dry flowers by hanging upside down. Seed can be collected late in the season when the centre of the flower reveals white fluffy seeds. Store in a dry area in a paper bag or hessian sack.



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