

June 2026

Plant of the month

Native Fuchsia



Common Name: Native Fuchsia or Common Correa
Scientific Name: *Correa reflexa*
Family: Rutaceae
Genus: Correa is named after José Francisco Correa de Serra, a Portuguese botanist.
Cultivar name: Reflexa means turned back, referring to the angle at which the leaf-like bracts above the flowers join the stem.



About

Correa is a genus of about 11 species and is endemic to Australia. The species was first formally described in 1800 by botanist Jacques Labillardière based on the type collected from Adventure Bay in southern Tasmania. The species was transferred to the genus Correa in 1803 by Étienne Pierre Ventenat.

Correa reflexa, relies primarily on nectar-feeding honeyeater birds for pollination. Its bell-shaped, pendulous flowers and reflexed petals are perfectly adapted to accommodate the curved beaks of these birds, which brush against the anthers and transfer pollen while feeding. Native bees, butterflies, and other insects frequently visit the flowers to forage for nectar and pollen, contributing to incidental pollination.

In common with most members of the Rutaceae family (citrus, boronia, murraya) propagation of *C.reflexa* from seed is difficult but cuttings usually strike readily from current season's growth. Propagation from cuttings is mandatory to maintain selected forms and cultivars. A very variable species with seven varieties recognised but delineation between them is difficult as it hybridises readily with other Correa species.

Correa reflexa has received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit due to its exceptional qualities for garden use. You will find this species for sale at Growing Friends Plant Sales.



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Native Habitat

Heathlands and open forests.

Distribution

Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

Description

Correa reflexa is typically a small, evergreen shrub to about 1 metre in height but prostrate forms and forms reaching 3 metres are also known. Leaves often have conspicuous oil glands on their surface and may be covered with short hairs. The leaves are 10 to 50mm long and oval shaped. In some forms the leaves bend back against the stem giving the appearance of water stress.

Flowers

The pendant flowers are tubular cylindrical, or trumpet shaped and up to 40mm long. They may be pale green, red, red with yellow or cream tips or a number of other variations. Flowering is usually winter to early spring. The species require pollen from a different individual plant to successfully produce viable seeds.

Fruit

Correa reflexa produces a small, greenish-brown, woody capsule-like fruit known as a schizocarp. Measuring up to 9mm long, it splits open as it matures to release small, brown seeds. The fruit is dehiscent, meaning it forcibly ejects its seeds when ripe.

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