

September 2026

Plants of the month

Australian Paper Daisies



Common Names: Pink and white everlasting daisies and Showy yellow daisies.

Scientific Names: *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* subsp. *rosea* and *Schoenia filifolia*

Family: Asteraceae

Genus and species epithet: *Rhodanthe*: from Greek *rhodon*= rose (referring to the color of some species) and *anthos* = flower.

Schoenia: After Johannes Schoen, 19th century botanical illustrator. *filifolia*: from latin *filium*= a thread, and *folium*= a leaf, referring to long narrow leaves of this species.



About

The native paper daisy display at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan was first created in 1995, after the Horticulture team were inspired following a trip to Western Australia.

The team starts preparation on the soil from late April and then begins sowing the *Rhodanthe* and *Schoenia* seeds in early May. Large nets are then placed over the garden beds to ensure the younger seedling plants are protected from birds and other local wildlife. When the nets are removed in late August to early September, you can expect to see the flowers flourishing, shooting up to half a metre tall!

The *Rhodanthe* and *Schoenia* paper daisy species are “daylight activated.” This means the petals have a special adaptation to conserve energy. The daisies will only open their flowers when they receives a certain amount of sunlight.

R. chlorocephala subsp. *rosea* and *S. ficifolia* are popular plants in cultivation because of their very colourful display, especially in massed plantings. They are suited to most temperate areas and prefer well drained soils in a sunny position.

Don't forget to purchase some plants from Growing Friends Plant Sales. Seeds and exclusive Paper Daisy merchandise are also available at our Garden Shop.



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Native Habitat and distribution

Grass lands and woodlands in southern Western Australia.

Description

R.chlorocephala subsp. *rosea* is a small, annual species growing to 0.3m high and 0.3m wide. It has linear or elliptical-shaped leaves, green to greyish green in colour, 25mm long. *Schoenia filifolia* is a compact, branching annual species 0.4m high. It has long, linear leaves to around 100 mm long.

Flowers

R.chlorocephala subsp. *rosea* flower heads appear mainly in winter and spring, but sporadic flowering can occur at other times. The heads occur singly at the ends of the stems and are 10 – 60mm in diameter with yellow or greenish centres surrounded by white or pink, papery bracts. *Schoenia filifolia* flower heads occur singly at the ends of the stems and are up to 40mm in diameter comprising lemon-yellow papery bracts around a yellow centre.

Fruit

Paper daisy flowers produce a small, dry, single-seeded indehiscent fruit called an achene or cypsela, which are wind dispersed

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