

“Paying attention is a form of reciprocity with the living world, receiving the gifts with open eyes and open heart.”

– Robin Wall Kimmerer

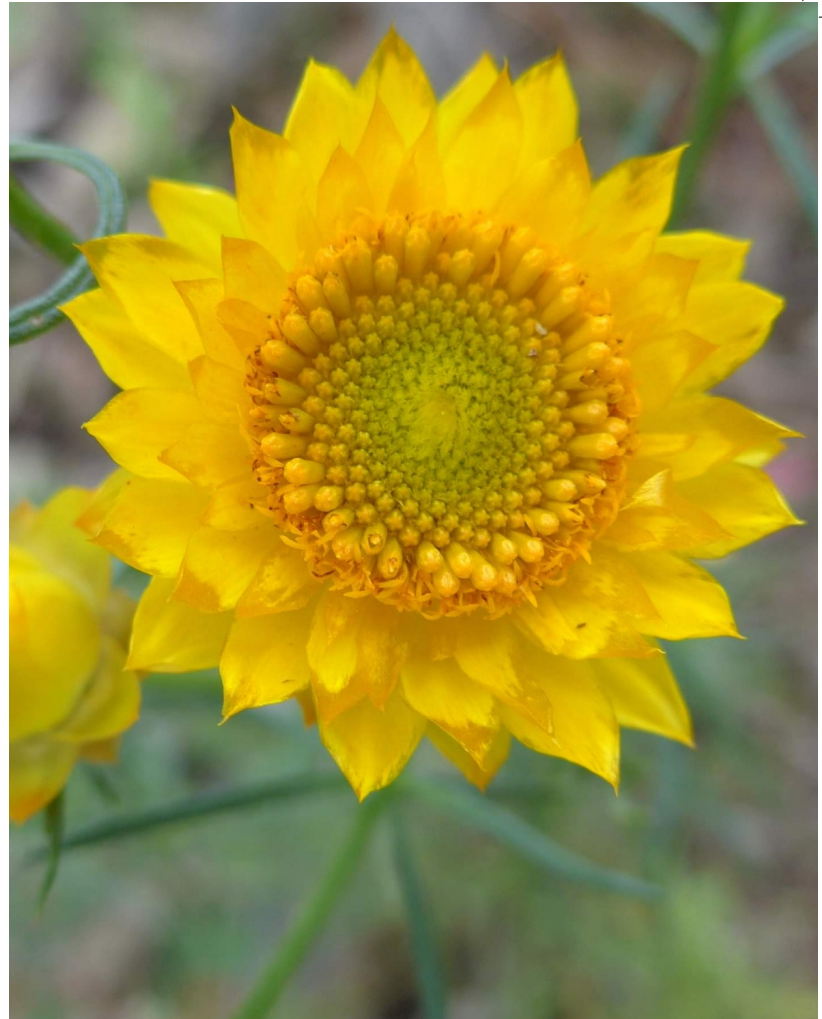


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Cover image - Frances Cincotta

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Xerochrysum viscosum
Sticky Everlasting

Acknowledgments

The Indigenous Seed Project acknowledges the local Dja Dja Wurrung people as the first inhabitants of the land we live upon. We recognise their continuing connection to this land, rivers and creeks and to their rich ancient culture. We acknowledge that at the time of European arrival the totality of the lands that are now known as Victoria were occupied by sovereign Indigenous nations who owned, cared for and enjoyed their land in accordance with their laws, customs and traditions. We acknowledge, with full respect, the strength and power of all Traditional Owners, Elder, Ancestors, and young leaders who fight to protect and look after Country, Community, Language and Lore in the face of ongoing colonial interruptions and cultural genocide. To Learn more please visit djadjawurrung.com.au The Indigenous Seed Project supports a Treaty for Victoria.

I would like to thank Frances Cincotta for her all-round local plant wisdom - having access to lived knowledge is such a privilege. Thank you also for your excellent proofreading skills and constant support for the project.

Thank-you to Cassia Read for her wonderful descriptions of each species and bringing her vast ecological and garden knowledge to this project - it was a pleasure to work with someone who has such sensitivity towards the natural world. Big thanks to local elder Auntie Julie McHale for her contribution to this project. Cultural knowledge is integral to our honoring of these plant species, your knowledge gives space for this.

I would also like to thank Eliza-Jane Gilchrist for her constant support and help during the creation of this project - having a right-hand woman like Eliza was invaluable.

Thanks to the lovely group of volunteers who assisted in picking Chocolate Lily seed. Big thanks to The Castlemaine Seed Library Working Group; Dayna, Annelise and Susan - the collective capacity you women have is incredible. The Castlemaine Library for supporting, assisting with logistics and offering a space to accommodate the project in its completed state. Thanks to our regular Seed Library volunteers who helped package and label the seeds. This project is supported by the Mount Alexander Shire Council's Community Grants Program.

Jo Matthews, Indigenous Seed Project coordinator

Terminology

Indigenous

Refers to a plant species that occurs naturally in a region but not exclusively. For example, River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is indigenous to our shire but it is also indigenous to many other parts of Australia.

Endemic

Refers to a plant species that grows only in a specific designated area. In Mount Alexander Shire we only have one plant species that is endemic - the Southern Shepherd's Purse (*Ballantinia antipoda*), a highly threatened species that occurs only on Mt. Alexander. It is also correct to say that Southern Shepherd's Purse is indigenous to Victoria, or indigenous to Australia, or indigenous to Shire of Mount Alexander.

River Red Gum, which occurs naturally in every state and territory of Australia except for Tasmania, is endemic to Australia, meaning it does not occur naturally in any other country.

Provenance

Refers to the area that the seed was originally collected from. Across Mount Alexander Shire conditions for plants vary from place to place with changes in soil type, altitude, aspect, annual rainfall, frost severity, etc. so where the seed is sourced from influences how well the plants grown from that seed will thrive when they are planted out. For example the summit of Mt Alexander is 430m higher than Castlemaine, receives 2 inches more rain annually, and is granitic in geology whereas Castlemaine is sedimentary so plants grown from seed collected on the mountain would not do so well in Castlemaine and vice versa.

Hello and thank-you for taking some Indigenous seeds to germinate!

The Indigenous Seed Project emerged from the desire to raise awareness of the local flora of Leanganook (Mount Alexander). The project will create the opportunity for anyone to experience propagating indigenous seeds and to also learn about the ecological and cultural significance of the plant they are growing. The accompanying booklets will also provide valuable information about how to use the plant in a garden context and information on growing conditions for each plant.

With only 15% of the local Box-Iron Bark forests remaining, it's more important than ever that we get to know these plants and include them in our gardens. This will help extend habitats for the local fauna and make your garden more resilient to future climate changes by using plants that have adapted to local conditions.

I hope you will sit with this little book, read its content and create a connection to the plant/s you have chosen to grow. Perhaps next time you are in the bush you will be able to recognise, name and appreciate these plants deepening your connection to the local environment.

- Jo Matthews, Coordinator Indigenous Seed Library project

Sticky Everlasting

Xerochrysum viscosum

Family: Asteraceae

Description:

The abundant, golden flowers of Sticky Everlasting make a stunning display throughout Box Ironbark country, from November through to April. This is an erect, biannual or perennial herb that grows 30-70 cm high and 40 cm wide, with dark green leaves that are sticky to touch when young.

Growing conditions:

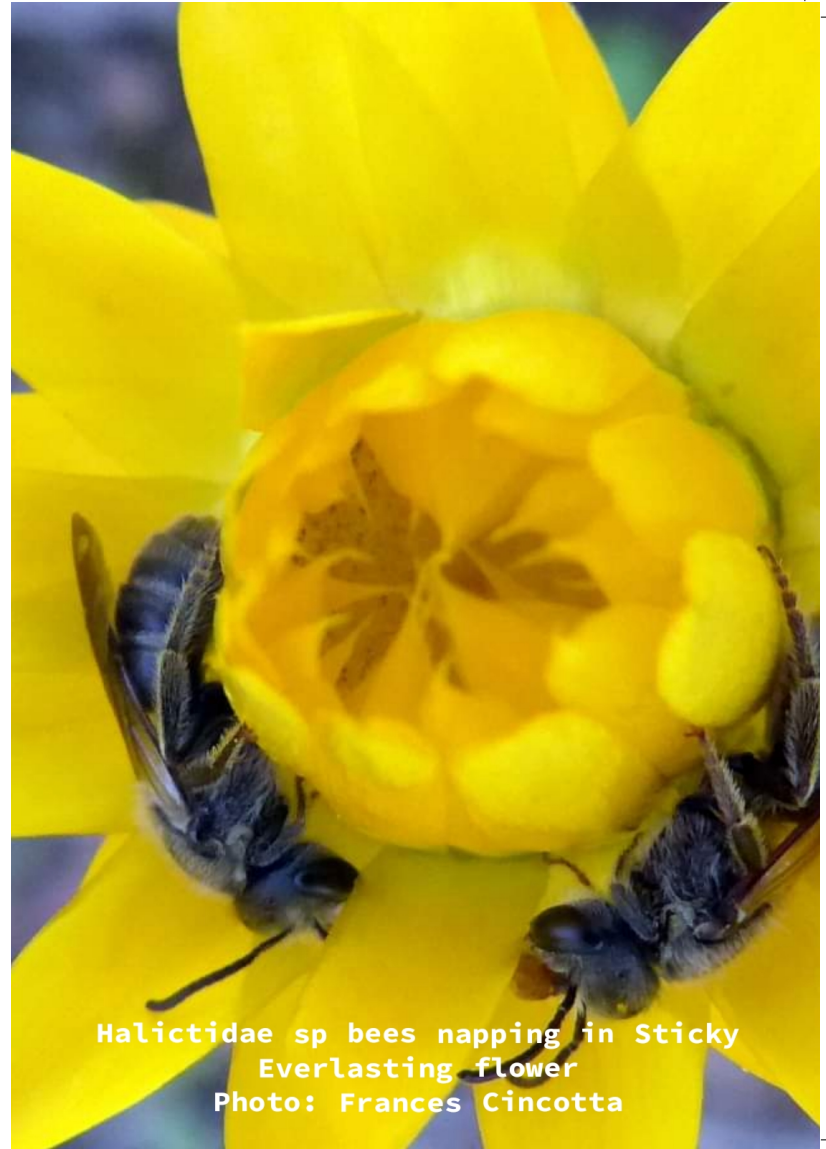
Sticky Everlasting grows well in full sun to part shade and tolerates a wide range of soils, including clay and sand. It is moderately tolerant of drought and frost and doesn't cope well with waterlogging.

Cultivation and maintenance:

This is a robust, trouble-free plant. Cut it back hard after flowering has finished to promote bushiness and remove any dead flower heads to extend the flowering period. Can be short lived in the shade.

Seed collection and propagation:

Collect seed into a paper bag in December to late January. The seeds will be ready when the flower head 'puffs-up' and seed will easily fall away when touched. Sow in March by evenly distributing seed over a tray of quality native potting mix. Flatten the potting mix in tray with a heavy flat object (bricks are good) so germinating surface is even. Do not cover seed as it requires light to germinate. Water in seed and place in a semi-shaded spot. Keep moist. Sticky Everlasting seed is most viable in the first year.



**Halictidae sp bees napping in Sticky
Everlasting flower
Photo: Frances Cincotta**

Garden Value:

With its long flowering period, and its shining, papery bracts that keep flower heads looking vibrant, long after actual flowering has finished, the Sticky Everlasting is a gem for any garden. Scatter it through any woodland, cottage or grassland garden or plant in blocks in a perennial border. This species is a top flower to include in a pollinator garden as it attracts a wide range of pollinators. Extensive plantings provide a striking celebration of summer, reflecting the mass flowerings of Sticky Everlasting that can be seen in local Box Ironbark forests. Cut flowers provide a stunning dried arrangement for many months.

Ecology:

Commonly seen growing in the understory of forests and woodlands in dry and rocky areas, the Sticky Everlasting provides both a pollen and nectar reward to a wide range of local pollinating insects, including native bees, hoverflies, native wasps, butterflies and beetles.



Sticky Everlasting seed. The dark lines are seed and the delicate fluffy appendages (pappas) help with seed dispersal. Photo — Jo Matthews



Sticky Everlasting flowers in various stages of development. Photo - Frances Cincotta