

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



[www.castlemaineseedlibrary.org.au](http://www.castlemaineseedlibrary.org.au)

Cover image - Jo Matthews

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that is correct and relevant at the time of publication.



**Podolepis jaceoides**  
**Showy Podolepis**

# 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](http://djadjawurrung.com.au) The Indigenous Seed Project supports a Treaty for Victoria.**

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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 in 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, Indigenous Seed Project coordinator**

## **Showy Podolepis**

*Podolepis jaceoides*

**Family: Asteraceae**

### **Description:**

The large and flouncy daisies of the Showy Podolepis nod brightly on slender stems (to 40 cm high) above tender leaves that form a rosette at ground level. After flowering (from September to November) plants die back to a few leaves. New leaves and shoots sprout annually during winter from a thickened root.

### **Conditions:**

Showy Podolepis grows well in semishade to full sun. It is moderately tolerant of drought and frost but has only average tolerance of waterlogging. Can be grown on a range of soil types, from heavy clay to sand, but prefers acid soils.

### **Cultivation and Maintenance:**

This seasonal perennial can be challenging to maintain in the garden as slugs and snails love the tender foliage and will munch new leaves as they unfurl from buds in spring. A small stick inserted near the plant will serve as a reminder of its location when it dies back, and then the new growth can be protected in late winter. In the wild, flowering density is greatest in years with good autumn or winter rain, so supplementary watering of garden plants that lie in hiding may be beneficial during dry times.



**The Showy Podolepis flower living upto its name. Photo - Jo Matthews**



Showy Podolepis growing near Golden Point

Resevior

Photo – Jo Matthews

### **Garden value:**

A beautiful plant to scatter through a perennial border, grassland or cottage garden. Showy Podolepis is a great plant for a pollinator garden and will support a variety of pollinating insects.

### **Ecology:**

This showy but delicate daisy may be seen scattered in the understory of woodland and forest habitats, usually on deeper soils with good drainage. Showy Podolepis provides both a pollen and nectar reward to a wide range of local pollinating insects, including native bees, hoverflies, native wasps, butterflies and beetles. While all daisies are an important source of pollen for local pollinating insects, the large size of the Podolepis flower head, and its loosely packed florets (small flowers) within each head, make pollen particularly accessible for foraging insects compared to other local daisy species.

### **Seed collection and propagation:**

Collect seed into a paper bag in December to January. The seeds will be ready when the flower head 'puffs-up' and will easily dislodge. 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. When seedlings are big enough to handle (this should be around May to June) and without disturbing the roots too much, pot into tubes. Seedlings should be ready to plant out around August.



A scattering of Showy  
Podolepis in Open Woodland.  
Photo - Jo Matthews