

“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

Cover image - Frances Cincotta

Published 2023. Every effort has been made to provide information
that is correct and relevant at the time of publication.



Leucochrysum albicans
Hoary Sunray

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 Aunty 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, Indigenous Seed Project coordinator

Hoary Sunray

Leuchrysum albicans

Family: Asteraceae

Description:

A beautiful shrublet, with soft grey foliage and showy, yellow daisy flowers. Elongated stems hold the 'everlasting' papery flowers above a mound of leaves, 30cm tall x 30cm wide. Starts flowering from September through to January.

Growing conditions:

Hoary Sunray prefers full sun and tolerates dry sites once established. Tolerant of heavy frosts and is sensitive to waterlogging.

Cultivation and maintenance:

Hoary Sunray requires little maintenance but is short lived-in cultivation, usually living between 1-3 years. Summer watering extends the flowering season but may reduce the life of plant.

Garden value:

A cheerful addition to any cottage garden, perennial border, pollinator or woodland-style garden. Good for container gardens and attractive cut flower.



Close up of Hoary Sunray in flower. Photo - Jo Matthews



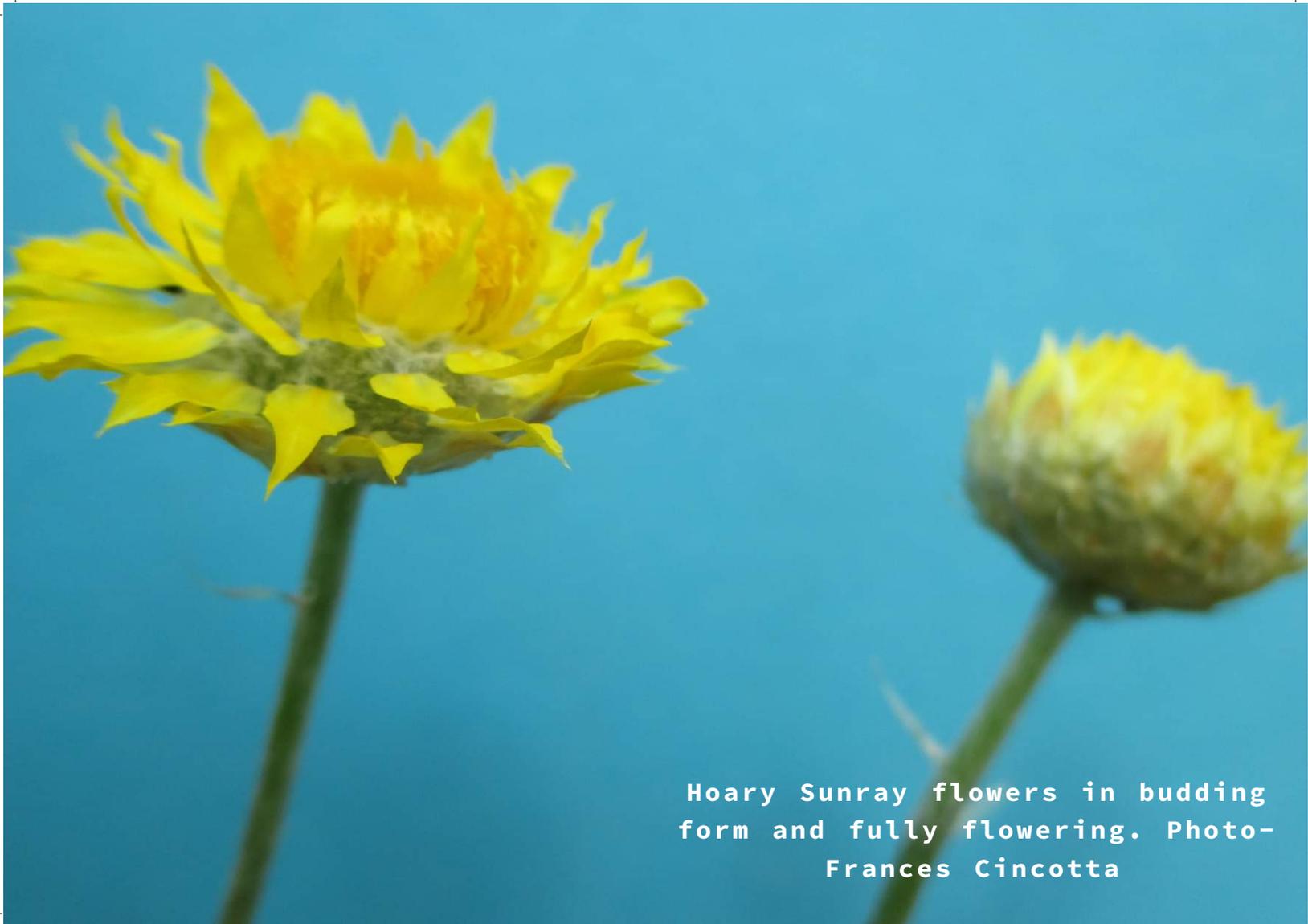
Hoary Sunray growing at the edge of local bush. Photo - Jo Matthews

Ecology:

Commonly seen scattered or growing in swathes on shallow or rocky soils in the understory of open forests and woodlands. Hoary Sunray may also be seen growing along roads and railways as remnant vegetation. Like other daisy species, the Hoary Sunray is a 'generalist flower' that can be pollinated by a range of insect pollinators, due to its wide and shallow surface that insects can easily walk on to access floral resources. The Hoary Sunray provides both a pollen and nectar reward and is visited by native bees, hoverflies, native wasps, butterflies and beetles. This species relies on seed to regenerate its population in the wild.

Seed collection and propagation:

Collect seed into a paper bag in late October to early November. The seeds will be ready when the flower head 'puffs-up' and seed 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. plant seedling in May onwards. Hoary Sunray seed is most viable in the first year.



Hoary Sunray flowers in budding
form and fully flowering. Photo-
Frances Cincotta