

Trachymene coerulea

BLUE LACE FLOWER

Graham

Flowering period: October–January.**Description:** Erect, hairy annual herb, 0.2–1.2 m high. Leaves 20–55 mm long, deeply divided into three segments. Flowers in simple, many-flowered 20–60 mm wide umbels (flowers arising from a common point). Fruit compressed, somewhat heart-shaped, 2.5–4.5 mm wide, 4–7 mm long, containing two seeds in opposite compartments. Seeds gradually released over a number of weeks.**Pollination:** Open pollinated by a wide variety of insects.**Distribution:** Common and widespread particularly after fire or soil disturbance (i.e. roadsides, fire-breaks) from Yanchep to Augusta. Along the Perth coast on limestone and dunes extending inland into forest and woodland areas and extends to off-shore islands particularly Rottnest and Garden islands where the species is locally abundant following disturbance events.**Propagation:** Only from seed sown in winter. May be sown in seed trays and pricked out when small (two leaf stage). Seed may be direct-sown into the garden or restoration site. Disperse seed in five parts dry clean sand to one part seed, mix well and distribute over soil that has been raked to make a rough surface. Gently rake over the soil to bury the seed.**Uses in restoration:** Late flowering and attractive species for areas in swales or other protected sites. Direct seeding immediately following the first or opening rains from locally sourced seed is the most reliable method for restoring the species.**Notes:** Common species in the horticultural trade both in Australia and overseas where it is grown as a potted flowering plant. In the home garden either plant seedlings or direct sow seeds. A useful plant for providing summer colour and adapted to low water-use gardening.

R. Barrett

Habit



R. Barrett

Flowers



R. Barrett

Fruit



Distribution