

**Pelargonium capitatum* ROSE PELARGONIUM

(L.)L'Hér.

Flowering period: Most of the year, particularly if soil remains moist.

Description: Low-growing to scrambling, straggly perennial herb to 1 m with soft hairy stems that often grow through surrounding native vegetation. Leaves broad, with a spicy odour if crushed, 20–45 mm wide, 20–65 mm long. Flowers in compact heads and quickly followed by production of brown seeds with a feather-like wing, which aids in wind dispersal. The dispersal mechanism is so successful that following its introduction from South Africa sometime in the 19th century, the species has moved through all coastal areas from Jurien Bay to Esperance and unlike many other weeds can invade intact pristine bushland. However, without control the species can dominate coastal areas growing rapidly following disturbance and with physically dormant seeds enabling the species to survive in the soil seed bank for long periods.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a variety of insects and introduced honeybees.

Distribution: Widespread throughout most coastal dune and limestone areas in the Perth region.

Control: Effective control can be achieved with application of glyphosate-based herbicides. The soil seed bank responds to soil disturbance and careful hand-pulling of rose pelargonium seedlings may be necessary after planting activities. Seeds may blow in from adjacent infested areas.



Habit



Flowers



Branches



Distribution