Agonis flexuosa
(Willd.) Sweet

WEEPING PEPPERMINT

Flowering period: September–December.

Description: Shrub to tree, 1–10 m high, often reduced to mallee-like clusters of stems to 3 m tall at the northern extremes of its range. Bark distinctively deeply fissured with branches weeping. The white flowers are borne in heads in the axils of the 15 cm long aromatic leaves. Seed is produced annually in a three-valved capsule collected in late summer/winter and open once dried to release pepper-like seeds mixed with sterile seed-like packing material.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a wide variety of opportunistic insect visitors.

Distribution: From Two Rocks to Bremer Bay (outlier at Cape Arid), forming mallee-like clustered growth in the northern extent of the range to large trees in the south. Grows on a wide variety of soils but restricted in the Perth region to calcareous dunes.

Propagation: Easily propagated from seed sown at any time of year without seed treatments. Collect mature fruit and dry to release the small seeds.

Uses in restoration: A species that must be revegetated using only locally collected seed due to the strong nature of potential seed provenance in this species (northern mallee form compared to tree-like forms in the central and southern extent of the range). Also care should be exercised in planting into bushland habitats as the species may become locally weedy if fire and soil disturbance is not controlled (as has happened in Kings Park bushland following bushland plantings in the 1960s). Also, in parts of the metropolitan region, non-local provenances have been planted with the local type such as in the City Beach dunes. Removal of non-local forms is advisable if based on documented planting or genetic evidence.

Notes: A fast-growing and robust species preferably planted into protected sites or dune swales. In the Swanborne region, *A. flexuosa* forms attractive groves of small trees that in-fill swales in secondary dunes.

Habit

Flowers

Fruit

Distribution