

## *Dianella revoluta* *var. divaricata*

(R.Br.) R.J.F.Hend.

### NATIVE FLAX DIANELLA

**Flowering period:** September–December.

**Description:** Robust, rhizomatous, long-lived perennial, 0.3–1 m tall with 2–5 cm wide, grey-green leaves, each with a prominent keel-like midrib and often with inrolled leaf margins, prominently so during periods of drought. Flower stems 1–1.2 m high, candelabra-like and held well above the foliage. Flowers numerous, blue, rarely white, pendulous with prominent anthers. Fruit a dark, fleshy berry.

**Pollination:** By insects that ‘buzz-pollinate’ the flowers by holding the matured anthers and vibrating their wings to release the pollen.

**Distribution:** Widespread in bushland and coastal secondary dunes from Carnarvon to Esperance. An infrequent species in the Perth coastal dunes; however, plants may be found growing in stable dune vegetation often with leaves and flower stems emerging above the heath.

**Propagation:** From seeds that have been de-fruited either by fermenting in water for several days and washing to remove the decaying fruit or by rubbing between rubber matting. Wash and dry fruit before sowing in seedling mix. Prick out seedlings when 8–12 weeks old.

**Uses in restoration:** Useful for maintaining biodiverse plantings in dune restoration programs. However, care should be taken to only use seed from local sources as many cultivars and non-local types of *Dianella* are readily available in the nursery trade.

**Notes:** Well suited to the home garden in full sun positions with its striking foliage, colourful flowers and decorative berries. Once established, plants are highly drought tolerant and ideal for water-wise coastal settings.



Habit



Flower



Fruit and flower



Distribution