

Eremophila glabra

(R.Br.) Ostenf.

TAR BUSH

Flowering period: March–December.

Description: Sprawling to erect shrub, 0.4–1 m high along the Perth coast but can reach 3 m in northern parts of Western Australia. Leaves alternate, 3–4 cm long, green-grey to silver-grey and covered in fine hairs. Flowers yellow to red or orange and bird-beak shaped. Fruit round, green, ripening yellow, fleshy, pea-sized with a hard inner fruit.

Pollination: Pollinated by a variety of nectar-seeking birds.

Distribution: From Kalbarri to Esperance and tolerant of a wide variety of soils and locations from sands to clays, saline sites and limestone areas. In the Perth region occurs in low heath on dunes and also on limestone outcrops near the coast, but is often not common.

Propagation: Usually from cuttings taken in spring to early summer. Seed propagation difficult if using the intact seed however if the hardened fruit wall is careful removed using pliers or a dehuller, germination is possible in a standard seed germination medium.

Uses in restoration: Useful species for encouraging birds into dune areas and for increasing the biodiversity values of restoration plantings. Can be grown in exposed to protected sites. Availability of propagated plants can be an issue as a number of forms are available; however, these forms are usually not representative of the local Perth form.

Notes: *Eremophila glabra* has a number of horticultural forms including a delightful white-leaved, prostrate form from north of Kalbarri. Grow in full sun to partial shade and becomes an effective landscape plant if mass planted. Also known as coastal poverty bush.



Habit



Flowers



Fruit



Distribution