

*Frankenia pauciflora*

DC.

## SEA-HEATH

**Flowering period:** All year.

**Description:** Low-growing, prostrate to semi-erect low shrub to 50 cm tall, grey-green, thyme-like. Leaves fine, linear, to 2 cm long. Flowers to 2 cm across, pink or white, petals 5 or 6 with 6 stamens. Seeds smooth to slightly rough produced from a cylindrical capsule at any time of the year.

**Pollination:** Open pollinated by a variety of insects.

**Distribution:** Widespread genus of halophytic (salty area) species with sea-heath being the most common in Western Australia from coastal to inland arid and saline habitats. In the Perth region occurs in sand over limestone or limestone areas often exposed to sea spray. Grows with similar heath-like species in secondary dune ecosystems.

**Propagation:** From cuttings taken when the plant is in active growth.

**Uses in restoration:** Although a species of exposed situations the plant cannot tolerate high levels of sand burial and is therefore suited to planting in sand stabilised areas.

**Notes:** The perennial flowering habit of the species in combination with ease of growth and adaptability to a wide variety of soils makes the sea-heath an attractive flowering species for full sun locations in the home garden.



Habit



Flowers



Habit



Distribution