

Leucophyta brownii

(Cass.) F.Muell.

CUSHION BUSH

Flowering period: All year depending upon rainfall.

Description: To 35 cm high, this soft shrub produces an intricate network of stems with small clasping leaves covered in a soft, white, felt-like material that gives the plant its distinctive white appearance. Flowers in dense terminal heads, yellow when in full flower fading to white.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a variety of insects visitors.

Distribution: Widespread coastal species from Kalbarri to Victoria. Found in coastal areas on limestone or primary dunes often in highly exposed situations.

Propagation: Easily grown from tip cuttings taken at any time of the year. Ensure plants are of a suitable size before transplanting to site as the stems are fragile and prone to damage particularly if not hardened off.

Uses in restoration: Useful species for high exposure sites particularly where sand is drifting. The intricate arrangement of the stems assists in capturing of sand.

Notes: Cushion bush is one of the finest white foliage plants for the home garden. The species is now popular as a landscaping plant where the drought tolerance, reliable growth and compact habit make it highly sought after. A wide variety of forms occur in this species, from Shark Bay to east of Esperance. One form from Tasmania (available from nurseries as 'silver nugget') makes a particularly interesting garden plant with intensely divaricating branchlets giving a dense, neat, rounded appearance, hence the common name of 'the vegetable sheep'. Cushion bush needs full sun and is highly drought tolerant. Only tip prune for shape.



Habit



Flowers



Habit



Distribution