

## *Myoporum insulare*

### BLUEBERRY TREE

R.Br.

**Flowering period:** July–February.

**Description:** Dense, multi-branched shrub to 3 m high, sometimes low and spreading in exposed locations. Leaves soft, green, 25–75 mm long, 7–21 mm wide, fleshy to highly succulent, more so in exposed situations. Flowers 3–6 per leaf axil, 4 mm across with a distinctive hairy throat. Seeds a fleshy fruit to 3–4 mm wide, produced over an extended period depending upon rainfall, white, ripening purple, globular with a hard, woody seed within.

**Pollination:** Pollinated by a wide variety of insects and introduced honeybees.

**Distribution:** Widespread in a variety of locations and soils from limestone to stable secondary dune areas from Yalgorup National Park north to Shark Bay, and extending to all other southern states.

**Propagation:** Difficult from seed that must be sown and left to age in soil for up to one year. Seedlings sporadically emerge over an extended period and can be carefully pricked out. Cuttings though more reliable than seed can have a low success rate and poor growth. Must be grown in full sun once hardened-off to ensure active healthy growth.

**Uses in restoration:** The low spreading nature and bird-attracting berries make this species useful in coastal dune restoration. Only plant well-developed (10–12 cm tall) seedlings or cuttings in restoration as smaller plants have limited root systems and perform poorly. Plant with similarly sized species such as *Acacia cochlearis* and *A. rostellifera*; however, will adapt to planting in mixed, low shrubby species. A long-lived species that provides important protective habitat for native birds.

**Notes:** Can be grown in the home garden as a bird-attracting species and will form a dense, compact shrub with pruning only required to control height and shape.



Habit



Flowers



Fruit



Distribution