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photo: R. Clarke

florabank

## Convolvulus angustissimus

*Convolvulus angustissimus* is a perennial creeper with trailing, twining branches and pink trumpet-shaped flowers [2]. Its common name is Australian Bindweed [2].

Population map:

[www.ala.org.au/explore/species-maps/](http://www.ala.org.au/explore/species-maps/)

### Natural Populations

*Convolvulus angustissimus* is found in all states except NT [5]. *C. angustissimus* is found in woodlands and grasslands on a range of soil types including calcareous sandy loams, red sands, cracking clay, ironstone and limestone [2, 3, 4].

There are four subspecies: *C. angustissimus* subsp. *angustissimus*, *C. angustissimus* subsp. *fililobus*, *C. angustissimus* subsp. *omnigracilis*, and *C. angustissimus* subsp. *peninsularum*. The subspecies can be distinguished by their distribution and taxonomy [3, 4, 5].

### Flowering and Seeds

*C. angustissimus* flowers at any time of year, but most commonly in summer [2]. *C. angustissimus* subsp. *angustissimus* flowers from August to December in WA [4]. It is an insect-pollinated plant and has been reported as probably self incompatible [2].

*C. angustissimus* seed generally matures from October–May [2]. The papery fruits turn tan brown and become brittle when mature and seed is black and hard [1]. *Convolvulus* plants may be difficult to find in the field when not flowering so staking or tagging plants in flower can be useful [1]. The pods should be dried then

crushed to extract seed, then sieved and winnowed to clean [1].

The seed is dispersed locally by gravity and is retained in the soil seedbank [2].

To source seeds or plants:

[www.grassywoodlands.org.au](http://www.grassywoodlands.org.au)



photo: <http://www.flickr.com>

## Cultivation and Uses

The seed of *C.angustissimus* is 3x2.5 mm in diameter [2] and has a thick seedcoat causing physical dormancy [2]. This can be overcome by nicking the seed with a blade to a depth of 1 mm [1], by scarifying [1, 2, 6] or by heating in an oven at 60 °C for 30 minutes [6]. *C.angustissimus* also strikes well from cuttings.

Indigenous people boiled *C.angustissimus* plants and used the extract to treat diarrhoea and stomach ache [6].

*C.angustissimus* is a foodplant of Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* and Freckled Duck *Stictonetta nervosa* [2].

## References

[1] Ralph, M. (1993). *Seed Collection of Australian Native Plants For Revegetation, Tree Planting and Direct Seeding*. 2nd ed. Fitzroy, Victoria: Bushland Horticulture.

[6] Walker, K., Burrows, G., and McMahon, L. (2001). *Bidgee Bush, An identification guide to common native plants species of the South Western Slopes of New South Wales*. Greening Australia, South West Slopes.

## Internet links

[2] Botanic Gardens Trust: [http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/Evolutionary\\_Ecology\\_Research/Ecology\\_of\\_Cumberland\\_Plain\\_Woodland/woodland\\_plants/convolvulus\\_angustissimus](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/Evolutionary_Ecology_Research/Ecology_of_Cumberland_Plain_Woodland/woodland_plants/convolvulus_angustissimus)

[3] FloraBase Western Australian Herbarium: <http://florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/19880>

[4] FloraBase Western Australian Herbarium: <http://florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/19881>

[5] PlantNET National Herbarium of New South Wales: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Convolvulus~angustissimus>