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## WILDFLOWERS IN VICTORIA

This issue has been prepared by Victorian enthusiasts. What is so little realised is the range of growing conditions in Victoria and their severity in some areas. The plants they recommend have been successfully proved in similar conditions in N.S.W. and are quite hardy in temperate areas.

The principal wildflower areas of Victoria are given opposite, and latter pages describe many of the plants of floral value. For those who would like to know more of the wildflowers in these areas we recommend the book "Flowers and Plants of Victoria", see pp. 144, or previous issues of this periodical, where hundreds are described and illustrated.

### GROWING WILDFLOWERS

The emphasis in this issue is the cultivation of wildflowers in home gardens. The hundreds recommended also include some from other parts of Australia that have proved hardy under garden cultivation.

"Landscaping For a Bush Garden", pp. 146, advises on the establishment of a garden.

"Planning a Native Garden", pp. 165, gives hints on the selection of plants.

"How to Transform a Conventional Garden Into a Native One", pp. 166.

"A Wildflower Garden", pp. 147, introduces and illustrates a garden for your guidance.

"Small Plants for the Garden", pp. 147, describes many hardy plants suitable.

"Birds in the Native Garden", pp. 161, invites you to share the company of birds.

"Natives for Window Boxes", pp. 142. Gardening in miniature.

"Acacia for Melbourne Gardens", pp. 154. Wattles that will suit your garden.

"Boronia and other Rutaceae", pp. 159 is supp. by "Victorian Boronia", pp. 160.

"Correa", pp. 156 describes small easily grown plants with bell shaped flowers.

"Emu Bush—*Eremophila* in Northern Victoria", pp. 184. Dry area gardening.

"Eucalypts for Southern Victorian Gardens", pp. 163.

"Grevillea—Victorian Grevillea Under Garden Conditions", pp. 169. Spider flowers?

"Hakea—As Grown In Melbourne Gardens", pp. 167. Shrubs with unique flowers.

"Hibbertia—Their Cultivation", pp. 175. Floriferous, yellow flowered small plants.

"Melaleucas In Melbourne", pp. 180. Hardy easily grown shrubs of great value.

"Mint Bushes—Growing Mint Bushes in Melbourne", pp. 170. Beautiful flowers, fragrant bush.

"Orchids—Cultivation of *Chiloglottis*", pp. 172. Terrestrial orchids for pot culture.

**COVER—*Prostanthera aspalathoides*, "Scarlet Mint Bush" see p. 171.**

## NATIVES FOR WINDOW BOXES

by M. Fisch

About six years ago I was asked to recommend Native Plants for a window-box, facing west. It was only 36" x 18" and 3' deep, built in bricks. I enquired in a Native nursery and was told to forget it, to plant petunias or geraniums. I tried to forget that, I mean the petunias, and went ahead. We lined the box with heavy black polythene, filled the bottom with small stones, taking care to have some holes in the side to get rid of excess water; added some coarse sand and charcoal and topped it with a mixture of mountain soil, black sand and local clay soil. We let it settle and after much consideration planted one each of *Grevillea biternata* and *G. lavandulacea* and two *Lechenaultia biloba*. You should have seen them grow! They were planted around Easter and *G. lavandulacea* and the *Lechenaultias* bloomed the next spring. *Grevillea biternata* flowered in the second year. From then on they just grew and grew.

The *Lechenaultia* had to be replaced in the third year—and even then were ousted by the vigorous Grevilleas. After 6 years also *G. biternata* had to be removed as it was growing too big, the roots nearly pushing the bricks out. It has been replanted now with only *Grevillea lavandulacea* and *Dampiera rosmarinifolia*, both doing well.

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