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Foote's grevillea

003988

E n d a n g e r e d F l o r a o f W e s t e r n A u s t r a l i a

**If you think you've seen this plant, please call
CALM Moora District On (08) 9651 1424**

Commonly known as Foote's grevillea, *Grevillea calliantha* is a spectacular species that blooms from September through to February, with up to 2000 flowerheads borne beneath the bonsai-like weeping foliage. Initially, the flowers are greenish-yellow then, as they age, they change to orange with a dark red style. The leaves are a greyish-yellow-green.

Mature plants develop a flat-topped, spreading habit, growing to about 2 m tall and 2-3 m wide.

Foote's grevillea grows in areas of low heath with scattered, emergent eucalypts on the lower to mid-level slopes of low hills. The species is native to the Dandaragan area.

Nick Foote, who collected cuttings and introduced it to the nursery industry, first discovered the species in 1981. Although cultivated throughout Australia, the species was declared as Rare Flora in 1989 due to the small size of natural populations. It was ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995.

CALM has set up the Moora District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to co-ordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening factors affecting the species' survival in the wild (See overleaf).

Threats include degraded habitat; weeds; accidental damage during road maintenance; herbicide overspray; frequent fire; grazing animals and dieback disease.

There are only six known populations of the Foote's grevillea (many of them quite small), and CALM is keen to know of any others.

If unable to contact the District office on the above number, please phone CALM's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.



A close up of the attractive flower of this species. Photo – Rebecca Wolstenholme

Recovery of a Species



CALM is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered taxa do not become extinct in the wild. This is done through the preparation of a Recovery Plan (RP) or Interim Recovery Plan (IRP), which outlines the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of threatened taxa in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by CALM and implemented by Regional or District Recovery teams consisting of representatives from CALM, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, community groups, private landowners, local Shires and various government organisations.

Foote's grevillea

Essential recovery actions that have been implemented to protect the species include:

Protection from current threats: The control of introduced weeds; relocation of Rare Flora markers that indicate the site of each population; protection from accidental roadside mowing; fencing of populations to protect the species from grazing animals; development of a fire protection plan; maintenance of dieback hygiene and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

Protection from future threats: Ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and CALM personnel are aware of the species' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.



A mature plant of Foote's grevillea. Photo – Felicity Bunny

Desirable recovery actions, which are progressively being implemented, include:

Rehabilitation of the habitat of Foote's grevillea by the inclusion of buffers of natural vegetation around populations; ensuring that land containing the largest population is set aside as a nature reserve; collection and storage of seed in CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); conducting further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of Foote's grevillea; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.



Masses of orange-red flowers are borne beneath the bonsai-like weeping foliage. Photo – Sue Patrick

IRPs will be deemed a success if essential recovery actions have been implemented, and identified threatening processes have been removed within three years of their approval.



Typical heath habitat of Foote's grevillea. Photo – Emma Holland

