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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PEPPERMINT

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Agonis flexuosa*

DESCRIPTION: Peppermint is a thick-trunked tree with rough grey fissured bark. It often has weeping branches and grows to a height of 10 metres. The grey-green leaves occur alternately along the stem, which zigzags and changes direction at each leaf node. They are narrow and willow-like with a pointed tip, 45-120 mm long and 3.5-12 mm wide, with a prominent midrib. The leaves have a strong scent of peppermint when crushed. The Peppermint Tree has white flowers that appear in spring and early summer.

HABITAT: This tree is common in woodlands of the coastal plain and south west forests, growing from Perth to Bremer Bay.

STATUS: Not threatened.

INTERESTING FACTS: The Peppermint Tree is an important food source and habitat for the endangered Ringtail Possum. Peppermint trees are widely grown as a street tree. The wood is sometimes used for crafting small items of furniture.

