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Northampton midget greenhood

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 Geraldton District on (08) 9921 5955**

The Northampton midget greenhood, (*Pterostylis* sp. (Northampton)), which may appear as solitary individuals or in small clumps, is a small herb that grows to between 5 and 10 cm in height.

A flower spike, containing between 2 and 20 pale green 'greenhood' flowers, is produced between August and early September from a rosette of leaves at the base of the plant.

Plants wither after fruiting and then enter a period of annual dormancy, persisting as underground tubers until the next flowering season.

Northampton midget greenhood differs from the midget greenhood (*Pterostylis. mutica*) in its paler colour, its wavy-margined leaves and its more northern occurrence.

Northampton midget greenhood grows in areas of low, open melaleuca scrub over low heath in winter-wet clay soils north of Northampton.

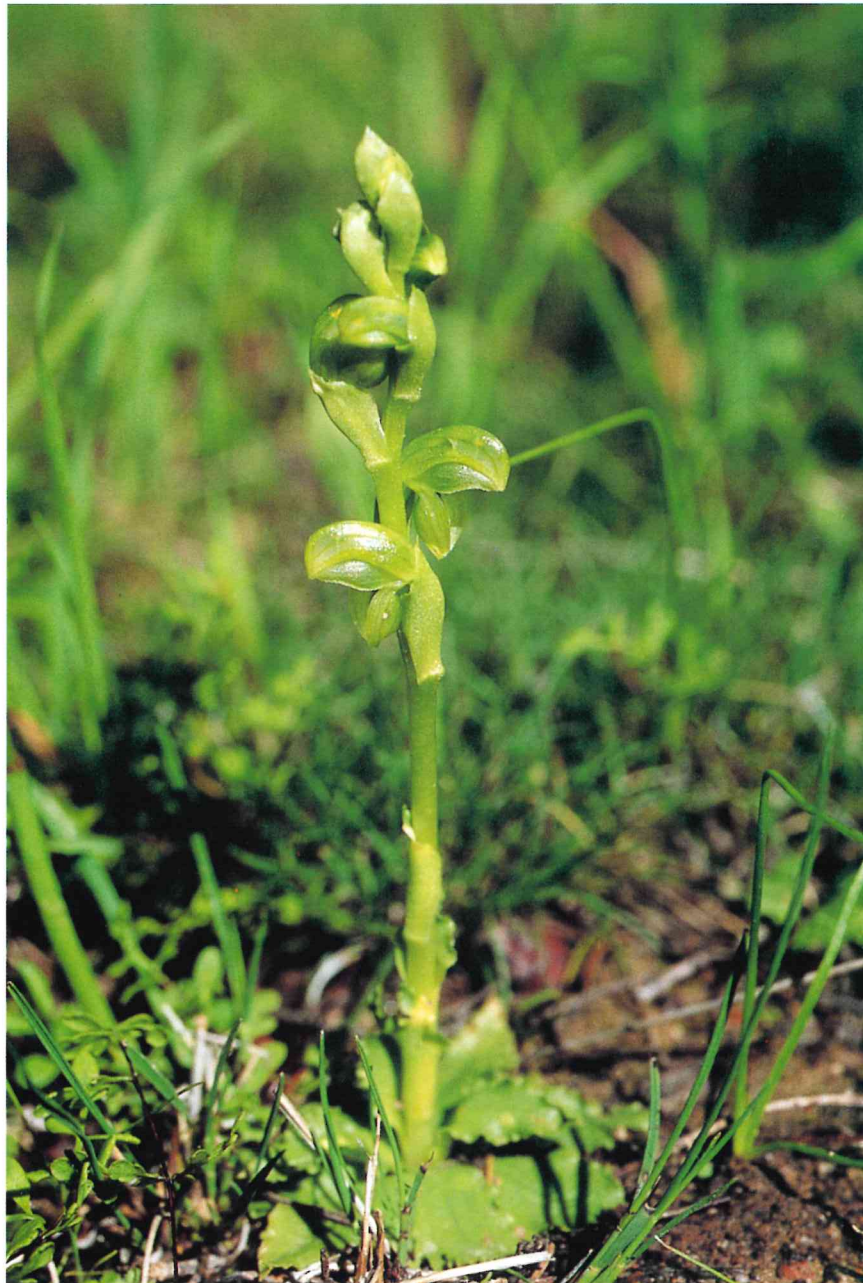
The species was declared as Rare Flora in 1987 and ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995.

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

Threats include severe weed invasion; grazing and trampling by stock; habitat destruction by kangaroos, feral pigs and rabbits; and road and farm operations.

Northampton midget greenhood is currently known from a few, mostly small populations 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.



Between two and twenty tiny hooded flowers are produced in late winter and early spring.
Photo – Andrew Brown

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.

Northampton midget greenhood

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

Protection from current threats: The control of introduced weeds; redirection of a drainage channel; development of a fire protection plan; fencing; feral pig control; 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.

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

Protection of populations by including buffers of natural vegetation around each site; collection of seed; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of the species; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.

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.



Each flower is about 5 mm long and 5 mm wide. Photo – Andrew Brown



Northampton midget greenhood is found in area of low-lying winter-wet heath. Photo – Andrew Brown

