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Department of Biodiversity,  
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# Mingenew everlasting

Endangered flora of Western Australia

**If you think you've seen this plant, please call the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) Geraldton District on (08) 9921 5955.**

Western Australia's wheatbelt is famous for its show of everlasting daisies each spring. Most everlastings occur in inland areas prone to long droughts and high temperatures, so species have adapted to cope with these conditions by germinating in autumn, growing during the milder, wet winter and seeding before the summer drought.

Mingenew everlasting (*Schoenia filifolia* subsp. *subulifolia*) is an erect annual daisy to 50 centimetres tall that occurs near Mingenev and Morawa in the northern agricultural area. Historically it has also been recorded between Walkaway and Geraldton.



Mingenew everlasting plants. Photo – Gemma Phelan



Mingenew everlasting flower inflorescence at the end of the flowering season with ripe seeds about to be dispersed. Photo – Gemma Phelan

The leaves of Mingenev everlasting are terete (circular in cross-section). Although appearing to have only one flower on each plant, the flower head of Mingenev everlasting actually consists of a number of small flowers collected in a central disc, surrounded by a hemispherical arrangement of yellow papery bracts. The bracts (or rays) are seven to 10 millimetres long. Flowering occurs from August to October.

Mingenew everlasting is related to the yellow everlasting *Schoenia filifolia* subsp. *filifolia*, which is a common plant

between Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Lake Barker. Mingenev everlasting has larger flower heads than the yellow everlasting and bracts are arranged hemispherically (in a concave arrangement), whereas the bracts of *Schoenia filifolia* subsp. *filifolia* are arranged spirally in the shape of an inverted cone (similar to a shell). Mingenev everlasting occurs in swampy flats while *Schoenia filifolia* subsp. *filifolia* occurs in saline areas.

Mingenew everlasting can be confused with the yellow daisy *Hyalosperma glutinosum* subsp. *glutinosum*, but the latter plant is much smaller (20 centimetres tall) and more delicate.

The seed of Mingenev everlasting is distributed in achenes, which are small, dry, dehiscent fruit containing one seed, with a pappus (tuft of hairs) extending from one end. This shape allows the seed to be widely distributed in the wind.

Mingenew everlasting occurs in damp flats and swampy areas. Populations occur on pale yellow-grey-brown clay and, at one location, are associated with crabhole clay.

## Recovery of a species

DEC 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 or Interim Recovery Plan (IRP), which outline the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of the threatened species in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by DEC and implemented by regional or district recovery teams consisting of representatives from DEC, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

PAM02408



Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



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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



*Habitat of Mingenev everlasting. Photo – Catherine Page*

Although Mingenev everlasting is grown in commercial cultivation, the taxon is known from only four populations in the wild. Three of the populations occur on private property. A collection of plants cultivated from seeds collected in the wild are kept at Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

Mingenev everlasting is listed as rare under the *Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and is ranked as endangered due to the small number of populations and plants and the decline in natural extent. The subspecies has been nominated for listing under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

IRPs will be deemed a success if the number of individuals within the population and/or the number of populations have increased.

This project is funded by the Australian and State governments' investment through the Natural Heritage Trust, administered in the Midwest Region by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council.

DEC has set up the Geraldton District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions that address the greatest threats to the survival of the species in the wild.

Threats to Mingenev everlasting include land clearing, climate change, stock grazing, weed invasion and salinity.

The species is known from four populations in the wild and DEC is keen to know of any others. Mingenev everlasting is known to have been widespread in the past, so it is likely



*Mingenev everlasting flower inflorescence. Photo – Catherine Page*

that more populations may be found on private properties in the Mingenev-Geraldton area. As the subspecies is an annual, surveys should be conducted during the flowering period between August and October.

If you are unable to contact the District Office, please phone DEC's Species and Communities Branch on (08) 9334 0455.

## **Recovery actions that have been, or will be, progressively implemented to protect the species include:**

- fencing of populations;
- collection of seed;
- propagation of plants for translocation into a secure area;
- survey of likely habitat in the Mingenev area by the Mingenev Regional Herbarium and DEC staff, with more surveys to be undertaken in the future;
- liaison with landholders to ensure DEC and landholders work together in protection of populations from threats; and
- regular monitoring of populations.