

## Plant of the Month — May 2018

### *Eucalyptus rhodantha* Blakely & H.Steedman — Rose Mallee



*Eucalyptus rhodantha* (Rose Mallee) is a small, spreading mallee growing to 3m high with contrasting silver-grey foliage and large, pendulous red flowers. It can be seen flowering from early May in the north-western parts of the wheat-belt and southern parts of the Geraldton sandplain where its often found in small pure communities in flat and gently undulating country.

The Rose Mallee is uncommon in the wild, but the red filaments and silvery leaves make this a desirable shrub in gardens, particularly in the drier areas. It can be distinguished from the equally showy *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* by the long peduncle and pedicels and slightly smaller buds and fruits. Several species of birds and small mammals pollinate the flowers.

Photo: R. Davis

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