Maireana brevifolia

Small leaf bluebush

Flowers
Maireana brevifolia

Small leaf bluebush

Plant features

Growth form  A perennial erect shrub, 0.2-1m high.
Leaves  The leaves are 2-5mm long, alternating, blue-green, circular in cross section and succulent. The young stems appear slightly woolly.
Flowers  The flowers are woolly around the base only and appear singularly and appear from Nov-July.
Fruits  The fruit is 2mm in diameter with 5 wings attached each 2-3mm long and usually tan to brown. Large volumes of seed are produced in favourable years.
Bark  The oldest stems are dark brown.

Distribution

A common species found throughout the Avon catchment and from Shark Bay to near Bremer Bay, inland to the goldfields and west to the Darling Scarp.

Zone, habitat

Found on drier floodways and floodfringes of saline waterways and across the landscape on a wide variety of soil types.

Additional information

A useful understorey shrub for saline waterways. It is often a pioneer species on drier saline land and will rapidly colonise disturbed areas. The fruit and succulent leaves are important for fauna in saline ecosystems. It is quite palatable to both stock and native fauna and will readily recover from agricultural impacts if not subjected to overgrazing. It is slightly waterlogging tolerant as well as very drought and salt tolerant. Plants can be grown from tubestock or by direct seeding. Fruit can be collected when ripe from Dec to Mar. Fruit should be well dried after picking and stored with a suitable drying agent such as Silica Gel. Best germination is obtained from fresh seed.