

# Threatened Australian Plants

## Why does a botanic garden grow threatened plants?

Plants are important for life, especially food and medicine. The total number of different species – biodiversity – matters. Any species may have features essential for us or our descendants in the future. They are integral to the whole web of life of which we are a part.

Botanic Gardens are a refuge for plants, especially threatened plants.

## Aren't plants becoming threatened all the time?

While a few species have become extinct over millions of years due to gradual change in environmental factors such as climate, the vast majority of threatened species are so because in the short term people are:

- \* clearing vegetation for urbanisation, grazing, agriculture, forestry and mining
- \* causing erosion
- \* introducing weeds and animals
- \* burning off too frequently

## How can growing threatened plants help?

The growing of threatened plants by botanic gardens can provide material for reintroduction, research, education and commercial horticulture. Cultivation of threatened plants assists but doesn't replace conservation in the wild. In addition, it is essential to collect small quantities of seed from different locations to ensure a gene pool as wide and diverse as possible

## How do I recognise a threatened plant?

Internationally, botanists have given all plants a conservation status. Many plants are not threatened at present and their status is 'of no concern' but many plants are, and are given letters after their names to denote their conservation status:

**E = endangered** and at serious risk of disappearing in 10 to 20 years if present land use and other causal factors continue.

**V = vulnerable** but not presently endangered. At risk of disappearing from the wild within 20-50 years.

**R = rare** but not vulnerable. Not in danger in the foreseeable future but the population in the wild is small.

**K = poorly known.** Species suspected to belong to E, V or R.

**C = the species is represented in a National Park or Reserve.**

## Where can I see some of these threatened plants?

Throughout Myall Park Botanic Garden. Look for them along our Walks. The following are just a few examples:

### Acacia Walk

Vulnerable - *Acacia grandifolia*

Rare - *Acacia barattensis*, *Acacia oldfieldii*, *Acacia gnidium*, *Acacia wardellii*,  
*Acacia dempsteri*, *Acacia longipedunculata*

### Honeyeater Walk

Vulnerable - *Grevillea kennedyana*, *Eucalyptus formanii*

Rare - *Dryandra arborea*

### Old Eucalypt Way

Vulnerable - *Cadellia pentastylis*

## How can I tell which plants are threatened at Myall Park Botanic Garden?

Labelling with red printing and/or a red wooden stake beside a plant indicates it is threatened. Walk brochures detail whether the plant is endangered, vulnerable or rare.

