

## *Pimelea ferruginea*



*Pimelea ferruginea*, commonly called the rice flower, is native to the south west region of WA, yet has adapted well to the temperate conditions on the east coast.

The varieties **Pink Solitaire** and **White Solitaire** are really attractive plants that have cute leaves appearing all along their stems and produces a beautiful burst of spring flowers. Flowering generally lasts for a couple of months.

The butterfly-attracting flowers appear as clusters at the terminals of each stem which are around 80cm tall, a useful size for today's smaller gardens.

The flowers disappear naturally, leaving a neat foliage plant until the next flowering season. Although a dinky-di native, these beautiful varieties are the type of plant that suits many garden styles, not just native gardens.

The plant forms into a natural dome shape and displays the flowers all over the plant. It's a natural in coastal locations and will bear direct salty sea breezes. As a bonus, they can even handle successive light frosts.

### **Planting**

Will perform best in free-draining soil in a full or part-sun location however this plant is tolerant of a range of poorer quality, but, still, free-draining soils. Will grow in a wide range of climates from cool to temperate but won't enjoy sub-tropical locations. Mulching is recommended.

### **Watering**

Will do best in moist soil however will normally perform quite well on natural rainfall without much supplementary watering. Water in extended dry periods.

### **Fertiliser**

Feed with a controlled release native fertiliser in spring or any nutrients that are low in phosphorus.

### **Pruning**

This is a plant that you will rarely need to touch but you may want to trim back just below the old flowers.

### **Pests and Diseases**

No major issues here but always talk to your specialist plant retailer if you suspect there is a problem inhibiting healthy growth and flowering response.

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