

showtime in spring

Isopogon formosus 'Pink Profusion'
Bushland Flora Nursery (03) 9736 4364



NEW!
Isopogon formosus
'Pink Profusion'

This compact shrub has grey-green foliage and large rose-pink flowers in spring. It grows 20-50cm tall and 50cm wide in full sun or dappled shade, in well-drained soil. Easy to care for, it needs a tip-prune each year and it is both frost- and drought-tolerant. Feed each year with a slow-release fertiliser suitable for native plants. With its attractive, divided foliage, it will add interest to a garden bed or look great in a tub. It's available in Vic, NSW and SA.

Growing tips: family friends

Isopogon is one of the local members of the extensive and varied Protea family which is split between Australia, southern Africa and South America. The



Dryandra quercifolia

spidery form of the flowers of *Isopogon* is, with some variations, largely repeated in other family members, many of which would happily grow in the conditions favoured by *Isopogon* – free-draining sandy soils in an area where cool-season rainfall is reliably regular and summers are not totally dry.

South Africa's rocket pincushion (*Leucospermum reflexum*) is a big, grey-leaved shrub growing to 2m tall and wide. Needing full sun, its orange-red flowers appear in mid-spring.

Dryandra is a genus of about 50 species from south-western WA. They are relatively easy to grow in Perth and Adelaide, but a bit trickier along the summer-wet East Coast. *Dryandra formosa* is the best known species but several others are worth investigating, including *D. quercifolia*, pictured. *

Shhh...



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NEW!
Acacia cognata
dwarf
'Mini Cog'

mounded

Acacia cognata
dwarf 'Mini Cog'
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A low-growing, hardy and compact form of weeping wattle, 'Mini Cog' has fresh, lime-green new growth that matures to emerald-green. It grows to just 75cm tall but with a spread of 1.8m, making it a good garden border, rockery plant or groundcover and it's also excellent in a pot. It will grow best in full sun to dappled shade and is suited to most soil types as long as they are well-drained. Once established it is maintenance-free other than needing an annual tip-prune. It will grow in coastal conditions and inland areas, and can withstand both dry periods and frost. It's available in Vic, NSW and SA.

Growing tips: rounded heads

If you like the mounded look in plants, consider these three mound formers for partnering new *Acacia cognata* 'Mini Cog'. Mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*) is an evergreen perennial that forms a mound of strappy, dark



Baeckea virgata 'Nana'

green leaves to about calf-height. It grows in sun or shade but needs more water in a sunny spot. *Baeckea virgata* 'Nana' grows best in full sun, forming a tight, densely-foliaged bun, initially about 30cm across. Over a good amount of time (about 20 years) it can grow 1m tall with a wider spread. *Lavandula x intermedia* is a hybrid of English lavender that grows as a dense hemisphere of whitish-grey leaves topped, in spring and summer, with typical lavender flowers. It is highly aromatic, grows about knee-high or a little larger and needs full sun and fast soil-drainage.



Lavender