

Griffins wax flower

E n d a n g e r e d F l o r a o f W e s t e r n A u s t r a l i a

If you think you've seen this plant, please call the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) Perth District on (08) 9405 0700 or DEC Mundaring District on (08) 9295 1955.

Commonly known as Griffins wax flower, *Chamelaucium griffinii* was discovered by a landowner who found plants on his property near Gingin in 1984.

A medium shrub, up to 1.5 m tall and 80 cm wide, the species produces attractive pale pink, wax-like flowers between September and November.

Griffins wax flower inhabits areas of rare, yellow sandy soil on the lower slopes of the Darling Range near Gingin. In these areas, it is found in mixed woodland of marri and banksia.

Declared as Rare Flora in 1996, Griffins wax flower was ranked as Critically Endangered in 1997.

It is likely that the species is naturally restricted and this, coupled with clearing for farmland in the area, has led to its critically endangered status.

DEC has set up the Swan Region Threatened Flora Recovery Team to co-ordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening processes affecting the species' survival in the wild (see overleaf).

Threats include further clearing, accidental damage through roadworks and firebreak maintenance, weeds, and inappropriate fire regimes.

Griffins wax flower is known from only four places (all quite close together), and we are eager to know of any others.

If unable to contact the district office on the above number, please phone DEC's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.



Griffins wax flower produces masses of attractive pale pink, wax-like flowers in spring. Photo – A. Brown



A mature plant of Griffins wax flower. Photo – Leonie Monks

Recovery of a Species



DEC is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered taxa do not become extinct in the wild. This is done through the preparation of a Recovery Plan (RP) or Interim Recovery Plan (IRP), which outlines the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of threatened taxa in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by DEC and implemented by Regional or District Recovery teams consisting of representatives from DEC, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, community groups, private landowners, local Shires and various government organisations.

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Essential recovery actions that have been implemented to protect the species include:

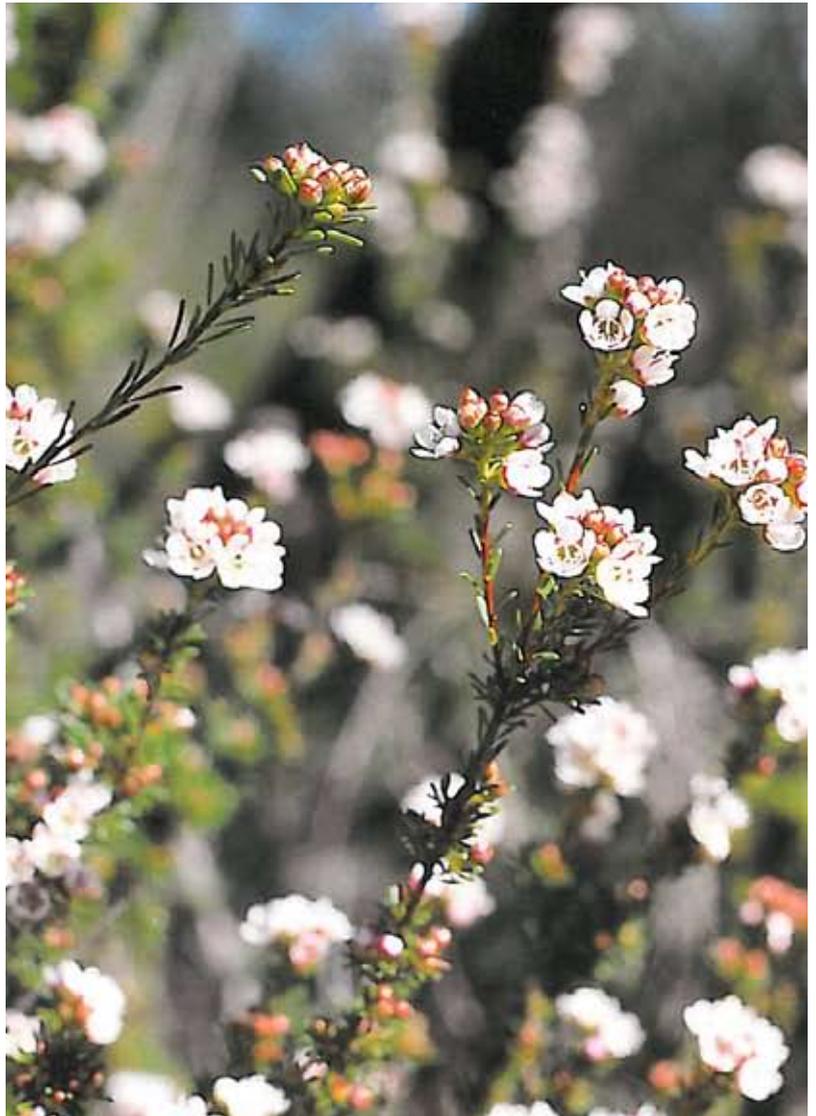
Protection from current threats: The erection of signs that mark the site of each population; the control of introduced weeds; the development of a fire protection plan; the maintenance of dieback hygiene; and the regular monitoring of the health of each population.

Protection from future threats: Ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and DEC personnel are aware of the species and the need to protect it; and that all are familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

Desirable recovery actions, which are progressively being implemented, include:

The collection of seed; the maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); the maintenance of buffers of natural vegetation around populations of Griffins wax flower; ensuring that land containing the largest population is fenced; conducting further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of Griffins wax flower; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of other limiting factors or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.

IRPs will be deemed a success if essential recovery actions have been implemented, and identified threatening processes have been removed within three years of their approval.



Flowers are usually held near the end of branchlets. Photo – Leonie Monks



Typical habitat on the lower slopes of the Darling Range near Gingin. Photo – Leonie Monks



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