



SIGNIFICANT FLORA FACT SHEET

The spectacular nature of the flowers and their prolific production in cultivation renders this shrub suitable for domestication and it is likely that it will become a favourite amongst growers of native Australian gardens.

MT FINKE SPIDER FLOWER

Grevillea treueriana

The very rare Mt Finke Spider Flower is only known from Mt Finke, a dramatic and isolated quartzite inselberg or range on the eastern edge of the Great Victorian Desert.

It is a dense spreading shrub of very variable appearance, depending on how favourable the growing conditions are.

IDENTIFICATION

Mt Finke Spider Flower is a shrub ranging from a diminutive straggly plant only 30cm in diameter to a spreading bush two metres or more across. Bark of older specimens is persistent, rough and fissured.

The most distinctive feature of the Mt Finke spider flower is its leaves, which are narrow, spiny and divided into six or more leaflets each about 1mm in diameter and 1-2cm long. The flower heads are one-sided, up to 5cm in length, comprising about 30-60 individual florets which are bright orange to red in colour and produced mainly in spring. Fruiting pods are about 1cm in diameter, and seeds are winged.

DISTRIBUTION

This stunningly attractive shrub is quite common on the slopes and rocky cliffs of Mt Finke, particularly on the higher parts towards the eastern end.

It grows on shallow siliceous soils in the crevices of the rocks, and does not extend far from the quartzite cliff and rocky scree areas on the mountain. Rainfall at Mt Finke is likely to average 200-220mm per year with a winter maximum.

Associated trees are Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and Dead Finish (*Acacia tetragonophylla*) with shrubs such as *Cassinia* and *Eriostemon* and Spinifex (*Triodia* spp.) on the upper slopes.

Also of interest in the locality are dwarf Ooldea Mallee (*Eucalyptus youngiana*) less than one metre high and the uncommon *Eucalyptus trivalvis* on lower slopes. Total population size is estimated to be no more than about 500 plants.



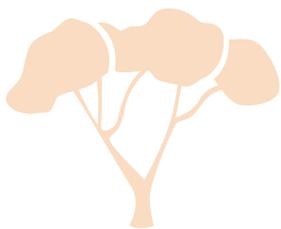
A SUCCESSFUL CULTIVAR

Despite its rarity, Mt Finke Spider Flower has been cultivated as a garden specimen in Canberra where it has proved quite adaptable to the much colder and wetter climate.

In Canberra it is an attractive ornamental shrub with weeping foliage and prolific flowers over spring and summer in most years.

The spectacular nature of the flowers and their prolific production in cultivation renders this shrub suitable for domestication and it is likely that it will become a favourite amongst growers of native Australian gardens.

It remains to be seen whether or not it grows true-to-type or whether it hybridises with other members of the *Grevillea* genus.





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Summit of Mt Finke
 S. Doyle



Flowers and fruits
 S. Doyle



A shrub cultivated in Canberra
 B. Lay

THREATS

Mt Finke Spider Flower is largely protected by its restricted distribution in the Yumbarra Conservation Park and by its spiny, unpalatable nature. However, its small population size makes it potentially vulnerable to fire, hailstorm or other natural events.

Mt Finke Spider Flower is listed as endangered under SA's *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and nationally under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, due to its very restricted distribution.

