

Australian Bluebell



Scientific name: *Billardiera heterophylla*

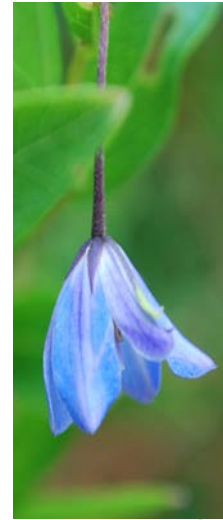
Aboriginal name: Gumug (Noongar)



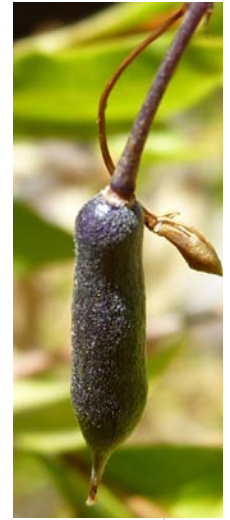
Plant habit



Leaf and stem



Flower



Fruit

About ...

This plant relies on birds to eat the fruit and then disperse the seeds. The seeds then germinate to produce a new plant.

Australian bluebells are a common bushland plant of the south west of Western Australia. This plant has been introduced to the Eastern States, where it is considered a weed; as it forms a thick mat over the native vegetation.

The plant contains toxins which can cause nausea and skin irritation, so wear gloves if handling it. (Eurobodalla Shire Council)

Aboriginal Uses

- The fleshy blue berries can be eaten when ripe and are quite sweet with a soft texture

Family

PITTOSPORACEAE

Climate

Temperate

Habitat

Open forest and woodland areas

Form

Small shrub; twiner
Height: up to 1.5 m

Foliage

Long, leafy stems which twist around themselves or nearby plants
Glossy green, leathery leaves
Length: 50 mm

Flower

Birak to Bunuru (Summer) but can flower all year around
Intense blue
Bell-shaped
Occur in clusters of two or more flowers
Length: up to 10 mm

Fruit

Follow on from the flower
Greenish-blue fruits
Length: up to 20 mm
Cylindrical in shape
Contain many sticky seeds

Developed by SERCUL for use with the *Bush Tucker Education Program*.



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA

Caution: Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.

SERCUL

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare
www.sercul.org.au/our-projects/
bushtucker/

ALGAE BUSTER



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