Blueberry Lily

Scientific name: *Dianella revoluta*
Aboriginal name: Mangard (Noongar)

About ...

A hardy evergreen plant which grows in clumps. It sends out horizontal roots (rhizomes) which then send up shoots for a new plant. It can form large, spreading colonies. After fire, plants can regrow from rhizomes under the ground and quickly re-colonise areas.

It is a very hardy plant which is drought and frost resistant. Blueberry Lily grows in many different conditions, in sclerophyll, woodland and mallee forests and is native to the South West of WA and across all other states of Australia except the Northern Territory. The wiry stems, which rise above the foliage, branch into several stems, each with a flower. The flowers open one at a time and last for one day.

It grows in most soil types; however, it prefers soil high in nutrients.

Aboriginal Uses

- Fruits can be eaten raw; they have a sweet flavour which becomes nutty when seeds are chewed
- Roots can be pounded, roasted and then eaten
- Leaves are used to make string and cord for binding

Family: HEMEROCALLIDACEAE

Climate: Temperate to dry

Habitat: Provides a good understorey in moist forests, dry woodlands, rainforests and along coastal dunes

Form: Clumping
- Height: 1 m
- Width: 1.5 m

Foliage: Strappy, grass-like leaves
Very tough
Grow to about 140 mm long

Flower: Kambarang to Bunuru (Spring to Summer)
- Small, purple, blue or lilac
- Six petals with a yellow and black centre
- Rise above the foliage on wiry stems

Fruit: Birak (December to January)
- Pale or dark blue-purple
- Round in shape
- Size: 5 – 15 mm
- Fleshy with 3 to 4 small, black seeds
- Seeds dispersed by birds

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.

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