

Coastal Pigface



Scientific name: *Carpobrotus virescens*

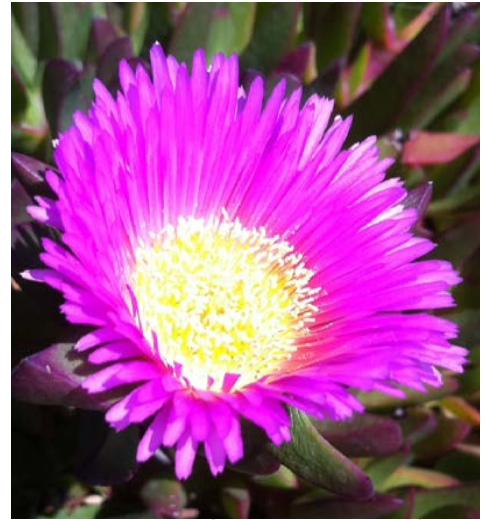
Aboriginal name: Bain (Noongar)



Plant habit



Foliage



Flower

About ...

Living in coastal conditions, this plant is able to tolerate moving sand. It goes between being covered by sand or having the sand around it blown away. It has evolved to cope with such harsh conditions. It is a great plant to stabilise coastal sand dunes. *Carpobrotus edulis*, commonly found in tuart and banksia woodlands, is a pigface species from South Africa that is now considered naturalised in the Perth Region.

After flowering, the petals fall off and the fruiting base of the flower swells to produce the purplish-red fruit.

The fruit is highly regarded by local Aboriginal people who freely eat it when it becomes available. Early European settlers also enjoyed the fruit, adding it to their meagre diet and making jam out of it.

Aboriginal Uses

- After flowering, the plant produces fruit with a juicy centre of seeds in a white pulp which can be eaten fresh or dried.
- The juice from the leaves can be used to treat stings, scalds and burns
- Leaves are also boiled and eaten as greens

Family	AIZOACEAE
Climate	Temperate
Habitat	Beaches, dunes, cliffs and inland areas of south-west Australia
Form	Low ground cover Long branches to 2 m long
Foliage	Thick, triangular shape Grow from red stems Sometimes has red tinges Approximately 10 – 30 mm long
Flower	Djilba (August to September) Bright pink-to-purple with yellow centre Turning yellow as the flower ages Many long, fine petals
Fruit	Birak (around Christmas time) Purplish-red outside, white pulpy flesh inside Tastes similar to a zucchini

