Twining Fringe Lily

Scientific name: *Thysanotus patersonii*
Aboriginal name: Tjunguri (Noongar)

**About ...**
This fast-growing plant is found throughout many States of Australia and is widespread through the southern half of Western Australia.

This plant grows from seed contained in a dry capsule. The flowers are hermaphrodite, meaning they have both male and female components.

The plant dies back to a tuber after flowering which can be difficult to find. The white edible tubers are between 20 and 50 mm in length. They remain dormant until the following winter.

**Aboriginal Uses**
- The tubers, which look like tiny potatoes, are commonly eaten raw or roasted
- The stems and flowers are also edible
- Occasionally, the flowers and stems were roasted, made into powder and eaten with the York Gum
- Other species of *Thysanotus* can also be eaten
- The root is best eaten just before or just after flowering, as it contains more energy at this time

**Family**
ANTHERICACEAE

**Climate**
Temperate

**Habitat**
Grasslands, Riparian scrub and woodland

**Form**
Perennial climber
Height: up to 1 m
Leaf and stems die off over Birak (Summer) and come back over Makuru (Winter)

**Foliage**
Long, spindly stems that either twine around nearby plants or trail along the ground
1 – 2 long thin leaves at the base of the stem
Mid to bright green

**Flower**
Makuru to Kambarang (Winter and Spring)
Purple flower with three largish petals surrounded by a ‘feather-like’ edge, alternate with three narrow sepals

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.

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