



PO Box 683
BEGA NSW 2550

258 Old Wallagoot Road
KALARU NSW 2550

www.tarrawood.com.au

GRAFTED EREMOPHILA CARE

Soil types

- a) Tarrawood's *Eremophilas* are grafted onto *Myoporum* rootstock, which is an incredibly tough and versatile plant, able to grow in many extreme conditions.
- b) Differing soils types from poorly drained clay to sand are suitable for these plants because of the *Myoporum*.

Position

- a) *Eremophilas* are best planted where they get as much full sun as possible – many of them grow naturally in desert conditions, so they love plenty of heat and dryness.
- b) Air movement around them is important and they dislike being too overgrown by nearby plants.

Frost

Many *Eremophilas* are frost hardy as they come from the dry inland where light frosts are common. *Eremophila nivea* will handle at least minus 7 deg, while *Eremophila cuniefolia* will handle down to minus 1-2 deg. One thing many of them hate is extended warm or cool misty humid conditions.

Watering

- a) Like all plants, they need good watering to get them established, usually for the first two or three weeks.
- b) They resent overhead watering and wet foliage so it is best to make a watering depression around the plant and fill this as required. .
- c) They are desert lovers and will survive well on good dews, so little or no extra water is needed once established.

Maintenance

- a) Cut any shoot off the stem if it is below the graft union. This will be from the rootstock, and if allowed to grow will compromise the vigour of the *Eremophila*.
- b) Tip prune whenever needed to reduce the size of the bush. They are vigorous growers and will re-shoot healthy new growth after any hard pruning.
- c) Insect attack is rare but "Confidor" usually fixes any problems.
- d) Although grafted *Eremophilas* grow happily in most of eastern Australia, excessive humidity and poor air movement around the plants can cause some mould growth. Pruning out affected parts or spraying with a copper based fungicide such as "Kocide" is best.



Fertilizing

Any low Phosphorus (P < 2%) slow release fertilizer is suitable if your garden soil is known to be deficient in plant nutrients.

Mulching

Eremophilas are desert plants therefore prefer hard mulches such as sand, pebbles/stones, pine bark or Eucalypt mulch. Soft mulches such as cereal hays etc are not recommended.

Enjoying your plants

They love having their flowers picked, especially the *Eremophila nivea*. A large quantity of this *Eremophila* is exported into Asia for cut flowers and foliage.