

# The Urrbrae Wetland

# Native Lilac

## Hardenbergia violaceae

### Indigenous Plant Trail

The Urrbrae wetland indigenous plant trail consists of a number of provenance plants that were used by Aboriginal People for food, medicine, fiber and tools.

Each of these plants is marked with a small sign, containing information about the traditional uses and cultural importance of the plant.

*Kurana people have been consulted throughout this project, however the majority of information printed here and on the signs is from published resources.*

**Do NOT pick or remove any plant material.**

### Education @ the wetland

Groups are welcome to take a self-guided tour of the Indigenous Plant Trail. An activity booklet is provided, that encourages students observe, record and analyse the types of local plants that assisted the Aboriginal people to live successfully and sustainably for 1000'S of years.

To plan your visit, please contact the Wetland Manager or visit the Urrbrae Wetland Website [www.urrbraewetlandlc.org](http://www.urrbraewetlandlc.org)

**Description:** The native lilac is a climbing shrub, with trailing and twining stems that sometimes twist around other plants.

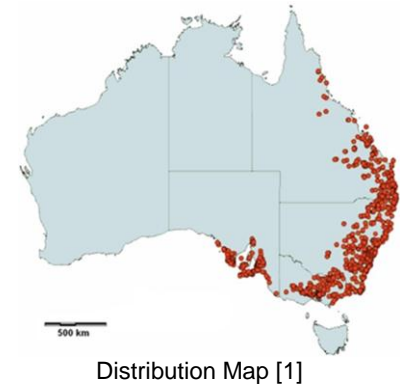
It has large, broad, egg-shaped leaves that are dark green and leathery to touch.

It yields beautiful pea shaped flowers during the winter months, which form in clusters.

It flowers in late winter with the colour of the flowers varying from white, lilac, to deep purple with yellow centers.

The flowers develop into elongated pods (3-4cm X 0.8cm) that holds 6 – 8 black, kidney shaped seeds. The pods and seeds mature in late spring.

**Aboriginal Uses:** The leaves can be boiled to make a sweet drink, while the beautiful flowers were used as decoration or soaked in water to make a purple dye.



Seed Pods



### References

- [1] FloraBank, *Hardenbergia violaceae*  
[http://www.florabank.org.au/lucid/key/species%20navigator/media/html/Hardenbergia\\_violacea.htm](http://www.florabank.org.au/lucid/key/species%20navigator/media/html/Hardenbergia_violacea.htm)  
Parks, Conservation and Lands 'Indigenous Plant Use: Tidbinbilla Region', Department of Territory and Municipal Services, [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au)  
Bagust, P & Tout-Smith, L (2010) 'The Native Plants of Adelaide: Returning the vanishing natural heritage of the Adelaide plains to your garden', Government of South Australia's Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.  
Bonney, N (1994) 'What Seed is that?', Finsbury Press Pty. Ltd., Adelaide, South Australia.

### Contact

**Wetland Manager**

**Ph/Fax:** (08) 8272 6010

**Mobile:** 0403 447 064

**Email:** [wetlands@urrbraehs.sa.edu.au](mailto:wetlands@urrbraehs.sa.edu.au)

**Website:** [www.urrbraewetlandlc.org](http://www.urrbraewetlandlc.org)



Urrbrae Wetland does not guarantee, and accepts no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to, the use of or reliance on any material contained on this fact sheet or on any linked site.

Do not pick or eat native plants as removal of plant material as some plants contain poisonous substances.