

## Pigface

*Carpobrotus glaucescens*



Family: Aizoaceae

succulent coastal groundcover



**Distribution:** temperate eastern Australia.

**Description:** a prostrate, creeping succulent that has long trailing stems to 2 m long, which root at nodes along the stems. From these nodes the plant produces upright leafy branches. It has thick, fleshy, smooth leaves which are triangular in cross section. The plant grows to form a groundcover that can cover a large area. It produces large, striking, deep pink-purple daisy-like flowers from October to January, but also can flower sporadically throughout the year. The plant produces a red-purple berry fruit, which was used by the native aborigines as a food source.

**Propagation:** is easiest by layering (rooting horizontal stem cuttings), as this is how the plant grows naturally.

**Habitat:** grows on the front of sand dunes and acts as a pioneer species to stabilise dunes. Grows in full sun or partial shade, drought tolerant.

**Uses:** The fruit pulp is edible, with a flavour like salty strawberry or kiwifruit. The skin is discarded. The leaves are also edible cooked. Fruit of the plant can also be made into toffee, jam and used in preserved pickles.