

PLANT of the MONTH

Chef's Cap Correa *Correa baeuerlenii*

Correa baeuerlenii, the Chef's Cap Correa, is a dense, rounded shrub reaching a height of 2 metres. It occurs in scattered populations on the South Coast of NSW.



The species is listed as threatened with extinction (vulnerable) in the wild with small, scattered populations over an area less than 150 kilometres, from north-west of Milton to Bega. Some populations are protected in Deua and Mimosa Rocks National Parks.



The survival of *Correa baeuerlenii*, as with many rare species, will be assisted by gardeners including the plants in their domestic landscapes.



Another local Correa, Native fuchsia or *Correa reflexa*, is the most widespread member of the genus and the most variable. It is typically a small shrub to about 1 metre in height



Correa reflexa

It is found mainly in wet and dry sclerophyll woodland and forest. *Correa baeuerlenii*, is a handsome shrub even when not in flower. Flowering occurs between March and August with sporadic flowers at other times. It is commonly grown and usually readily available from native nurseries.

It should be grown in dappled sunlight to shade – avoid hot sunny areas. Apply some water in hot and dry times. Plant in a soil with good drainage with some enrichment. You can propagate “Chef's Caps” from cuttings. They tend to be slower than other Correas to produce roots.

You can lightly prune your specimens after flowering and keep them to a dense 1.5 metres. It is an excellent gap filler and foliage contrast plant with interesting and attractive flowers. Birds love it.

The *Correa reflexa* flowers are bell shaped and up to 40mm long. They may be pale green, red, red with yellow or cream tips or a number of other variations. The flowers produce nectar and attract honey eating birds. Flowering is usually winter to early spring.