



## **How to grow Shady Lady Waratahs (*Telopia sp*)**

Prepared by Maria Hitchcock - Leader Waratah and Flannel Flower Study Group.

Choose a well-drained spot which is protected from westerly sun and wind and which is in light shade most of the day.

If your soil is heavy make a large mound with rocks and soil or grow it in a tub.

Cover the surface with a thick layer of sand (about 20 cm deep).

Only plant out an advanced plant - they are usually sold in large pots ready for planting.

Wait until it has flowered in the pot at least once.

Dig a large hole and backfill around the plant with cheap potting mix. Do not add any fertilizer.

Water the plant well and cover the soil around with a thick layer of mulch.

Waratahs do not like competition from other plants so do not plant any other shrubs within a metre of your waratah. Keep the area free of weeds.

Buds will form in autumn and stay on the plant all winter. The leaves are frost hardy but the buds may get frosted. You can cover buds with old pantyhose to protect them. When the buds start to open in early spring throw a handful of blood and bone with trace elements around the base of the plant and water in well.

Watch for insect attack - spray with Confidor\*.

Cut off any old flower stems. Prune back flowering stems after flowering each year. New shoots will appear just below the cut.

*\* Note added by Webmaster in 2020 – Confidor is no longer sold in garden stores. There is recent scientific speculation that it is very/too good at killing insects. Bees are particularly at risk*

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