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Westringia lucida is a small shrub which can be found in Kosciuszko National Park, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and in Victoria, south of Mount Bogong. Reaching 50 centimetres tall this species can be identified by its whorls (spirals) of three leaves and white flowers with orange-red dots. The 2019-20 summer bushfires affected the entire range of *Westringia lucida* in Namadgi National Park (ACT).

Description

Westringia lucida is a small, dense shrub reaching only half a metre in height. Its flat leaves are between 8-14 millimetres long and 5-8 millimetres wide. The leaves grow in whorls (spirals) of three. The flowers are small, reaching 9 millimetres in length and are white with orange-red dots.

Distribution

Westringia lucida grows in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria. In NSW it is found in and south of Kosciuszko National Park and along the western edge of the ranges between Badja State Forest (north east of Cooma) and Nimmitabel. In Victoria it is found at higher altitudes south of Mount Bogong.

Key Facts

Common name: Shining Westringia

Historical notes: Earliest collection for a herbarium voucher was in 1931

Conservation status (state): Endangered (VIC)

Conservation status (EPBC): Not listed

Maximum height: 50 centimetres

Lifespan: Unknown, it is a perennial shrub likely to persist upwards of 50 years.

Habitat and Ecology

Westringia lucida grows in rocky areas at higher altitudes or in alpine heath or snowgum woodland. In Victoria this species is only known to grow in dry, rocky *Eucalyptus pauciflora* woodland at altitudes of 1,650 metres.

Threats

Changes to fire frequency and consecutive fires. May also be susceptible to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (root rot).



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Conservation activities by the Australian Seed Bank Partnership

In 2020–21 staff from the National Seed Bank at the Australian National Botanic Gardens assessed and collected seed from 25 plant species affected by recent bushfires, including *Westringia lucida*. In Namadgi National Park, 100 per cent of the species range was affected by the fires, however four conservation seed collections were secured from the recovering populations. This project also enabled the National Seed Bank to reach new collection sites to increase the genetic diversity of collections for this species. This material is now available for future research on fire impacts, and to secure their future via ex situ conservation work.



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References

<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Westringia~lucida>
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/3a40e851-32fa-4b56-ba7c-9afba567abb8>
https://apps.lucidcentral.org/plants_se_nsw/text/entities/westringia_lucida.htm

Download other fact sheets in this series at:

<https://www.seedpartnership.org.au/initiatives/bushfire-recovery/banking-seeds-for-bushfire-recovery/>



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This fact sheet was
produced with funding
awarded under Tranche 2
of the Australian
Government's Bushfire
Recovery for Wildlife and
Habitat Community
Grants Program.