



SECURING THE FUTURE PROJECT

Preventing extinction of 10 threatened plants from SA, Vic & WA through seed collecting, germination trials, research, propagation & translocations

An initiative of the



Australian
Seed Bank
Partnership

DISTRIBUTION



SPECIES PROFILE

SPYRIDIUM FONTIS-WOODII

Spyridium fontis-woodii is a slender shrub that grows up to 1.2 metres tall, often displaying rust-coloured hairs on its young stems. Its small, broad leaves are egg- or heart-shaped, narrowing at the base and covered with fine grey or whitish hairs, particularly on the underside.

The plant produces dense clusters of tiny, whitish, funnel-shaped flowers, supported by petal-like bracts. After flowering, dry, papery capsules develop, and seed collection typically occurs in mid to late summer.

The heads are rubbed together by hand to remove the papery material, leaving the hard brown seeds. Previous collections indicate an average viability of around 75%.

KEY FACTS

Common name: Woods Well *Spyridium*

Conservation status: Critically Endangered (EPBC), Endangered (SA)

Historical notes: First described in 2012 from samples collected in 1995

Flowering season: October

Lifespan: Perennial - medium longevity

This profile was produced in collaboration with **Plant Conservation Australia** (formerly the ANPC)



Woods Well *Spyridium* in flower
(Image: Dan Duval)



THREATENING PROCESSES

Woods Well *Spyridium* is restricted to small patches of roadside vegetation near Woods Well in South Australia, following extensive land clearing for agriculture. This limited distribution makes it highly vulnerable to disturbance from roadside maintenance, grazing by rabbits and hares, and competition from invasive weeds - particularly Bridal Creeper, which can smother plants.

Key activities to reduce threats to the species include informing landowners about the species' presence to avoid damage to remaining populations. Controlling invasive weeds (particularly Bridal Creeper) and managing rabbit populations around known sites are high priorities. In addition, maintaining and expanding an ex situ seed collection is key to safeguard species genetic diversity and support future translocation efforts to secure the species beyond its current restricted locations.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

As part of the **Securing the Future project**, the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre (Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South Australia) delivered exceptional outcomes for the species.



A 2024 flora survey located only four individuals in the wild, highlighting the species' precarious status. In response, efforts focused on creating a robust safety net through seed banking and propagation. Under the project, over 7,600 seeds were collected from wild and existing translocated populations and seed production areas.

These new collections built on 2006 efforts to collect and store seeds at the Millennium Seed Bank in the UK. Under this project, the older collections were repatriated back to South Australia, and 500 were germinated. Of these, 100 healthy plants were established in a dedicated seed orchard at Adelaide Botanic Gardens for ongoing seed production. The remaining 400 plants were nurtured by First Nations horticulturists at the Raukkan Nursery and used for translocations into Mount Sandy and Messent Conservation Park in 2025. This work gives this rare species a renewed foothold in its natural landscape.

REFERENCES

- Images: Plants at Raukkan Nursery (Robert Mongravius), *Spyridium* fruit (Denzel Murfet), Raukkan Nursery staff with plants (Robert Mongravius), Seeds (Dan Duval).
- <https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2897404>
- <https://spapps.environment.sa.gov.au/SeedsOfSA/speciesinformation.html?rid=4835>
- <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/action-plan/priority-plants/woods-well-spyridium>



Australian Government

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