

# How to Propagate *Mulguraea aspera*



## Taming the Wild Beauty: Propagating the Rugged *Mulguraea aspera*

The world of gardening is filled with exotic names and vibrant colors, but few plants carry the rugged charm of the *Mulguraea aspera*. This Australian native, also known as the rough bush-mint, boasts delicate purple flowers and a captivating fragrance. While readily available in nurseries, propagating your own *Mulguraea aspera* offers a rewarding challenge and a chance to multiply these beauties in your garden.

### Understanding the Plant:

Before delving into propagation, it's important to understand the plant's nature. *Mulguraea aspera* is a hardy shrub, tolerant of various soil types and drought conditions. Knowing this helps us create the ideal environment for successful propagation.

### Methods for Success:

*Mulguraea aspera* can be propagated through two primary methods:

### 1. Seed Propagation:

- **Seed Collection:** Collect mature seeds from dried flower heads in late summer or autumn.
- **Seed Preparation:** Lightly scarify the seeds by rubbing them gently between two pieces of sandpaper. This helps break their dormancy and encourage germination.
- **Sowing:** Sow seeds in a well-draining seed raising mix, lightly covering them.
- **Environment:** Place the seed tray in a warm, bright location, avoiding direct sunlight. Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged.
- **Germination Time:** Germination can be erratic and may take several weeks or even months. Be patient and continue providing optimal conditions.

### 2. Cutting Propagation:

- **Timing is Key:** Take cuttings in late spring or early summer from new growth.
- **Choosing Cuttings:** Select healthy, non-flowering stems about 10-15cm long.
- **Preparing the Cuttings:** Remove the bottom leaves and make a clean cut just below a leaf node.
- **Hormone Treatment:** Dip the base of the cutting in rooting hormone powder to encourage root development (optional but recommended).
- **Planting:** Plant the cuttings in a pot filled with a well-draining propagation mix or a 50/50 mix of peat moss and perlite.
- **Creating Humidity:** Cover the pot with a clear plastic bag or use a propagation dome to create a humid environment.
- **Root Development:** Place the pot in a warm, bright location, out of direct sunlight. Roots should develop

in 4-8 weeks.

- **Transplanting:** Once roots are established, carefully transplant the rooted cuttings into individual pots or your garden bed.

### **Tips for Success:**

- **Patience is Key:** Propagation, especially from seed, requires patience. Don't be discouraged if results don't appear immediately.
- **Maintain Hygiene:** Use clean tools and pots to prevent the spread of diseases.
- **Gradual Hardening Off:** Once your new plants are established, gradually acclimatize them to outdoor conditions before transplanting them permanently.

### **Reaping the Rewards:**

Successfully propagating your own *Mulguraea aspera* is deeply rewarding. Not only will you enjoy the satisfaction of nurturing new life, but you'll also have more of these beautiful, low-maintenance shrubs to grace your garden, attracting pollinators and filling the air with their unique fragrance.