



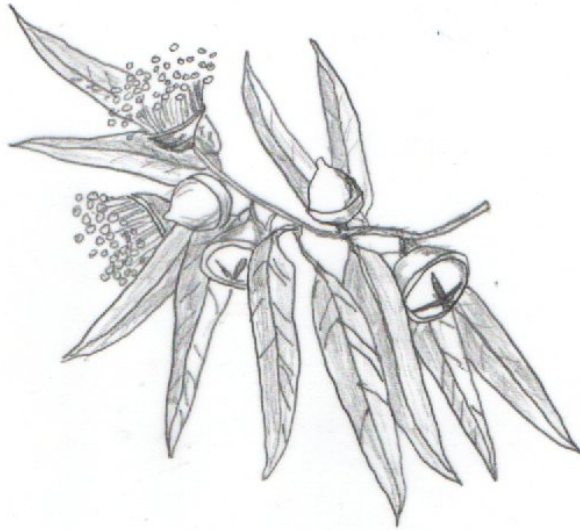
Far South Coast Landcare Association

Native Seedbank

Seedspotter Workbook



Far South Coast
Landcare
Association



Seedspotter and Seed Collector Workbook

Use this book to record your seedspotting or seed collecting adventures. Keeping notes in this Workbook will allow you to monitor your finds as the seed crop matures and to plan picking trips.

It is helpful to record when and where you find target plants throughout their seasonal cycle of flowering through to seeding. This Workbook includes a calendar with a list of plants that usually ripen in the Bega Valley each month. There is space to add your own notes on ripeness next to the species or on a particular date. The aim is to help you monitor ripeness and schedule revisiting the plant as close to the peak of ripeness as possible.

Useful notes and drawings might include a sketch map, a drawing of the flower or leaf for ID purposes, if it is a light or heavy crop (is it worth coming back for), observation date, some details about the plant and information about other plants growing around it.

Methods to record or communicate your finds

Recording Seedspotter information is easily done by taking a clear photo of the plant and recording species (if known), location and any other relevant information needed to follow up the sighting (access and landowner contact details etc).

If you would like to share this information with the Seedbank, it can be sent via email (fsclaseedbank@gmail.com) or by uploading to the iNaturalist App.

iNaturalist allows you to upload your photo so it can be corroborated by experts in the field and then become part of the 'Atlas of Life' map which is readily accessed for research, including your own observation history. If you place the Seedbank username (ask Seedbank Coordinator) in the comments box of your 'seedy' observation, the Seedbank will receive an emailed notification of your photo upload. The beauty of this is that the location pin, date, probable species etc are automatically recorded with your photo if using a smart phone.

Phone apps - can be useful when in areas of mobile coverage. Maps in both Google and iPhone usually will give your position in relation to major features such as towns and roads. You can 'drop a pin' to record where your finds were made and take a photo for identification. When you are without coverage it may still be possible to get a GPS location from your phone.

You may also develop your own preferred system for recording and communicating finds.

Where to collect

Make sure you have permission from the landowners where you want to collect. Do not collect from National Park lands as this is illegal. Visiting National Parks is a great place for Seedspotting and taking 'seedy' photos is allowed!

The easiest places to collect seed and to do seed spotting is around places you visit regularly, eg. out to the letterbox, walking the dog, going on a favourite walk or around your workplace.

Roadsides are often good places to find seed but take care and avoid high traffic areas.

What to collect

What to collect is very dependent on species. The FSCLA field notes, the CMN plant database, and iNaturalist are good resources to find out about seed types. There are quite a few good books that can also provide detail.

Especially important is to observe plants over different seasons to work out where the seed lies. Sometimes it is best to take a bit of seed and see what happens as it dries to monitor its progress to maturity. Ripe seed is often darker, and releases quickly and cleanly and is plumper than immature seed.

Woody fruits such as Eucalypts and Tea Trees release very fine seeds within a few days of picking the hard capsule. Seedpods on eucalypts have valves that open on the top of the seed pods. If these have opened, then most of the seed has already gone. Some woody fruits - Banksia and Hakea will hold on the bushes for several months or may need fire or heat to release the seed after picking the material. In that case, usually choose the oldest material.

Legumes, eg. Acacias have a pod similar to the beans and peas that we eat. Ripening usually takes 3 to 4 months from flowering to seed shed.

Soft fruits are often found on rainforest plants, eg. LillyPilly and Sandpaper Fig, this is to attract birds and other animals. Look for fruit on the ground as it is a good sign it is ready. Watch for lots of bird activity in trees as it can show that fruits are ready.

Seeds can be contained in papery capsules like those of the hop bush (*Dodonaea* spp.), Blackthorn (*Bursaria* spp.) or Native mint (*Prostanthera* spp.).

Plants in the daisy family do not have a seed container; the many small flowers are packed together in a head which expands and breaks up as the seed ripens. There is often a 'fluffy' appearance when the seed is ripe.

Grasses have papery glumes surrounding the seed head; the seed is a grain (like rice). Sedges have a nut like seed or a grain. You can cut off ripe seedheads with scissors or a blade. It is easy to gently run your fingers up the seedling stems because ripe seed will usually release into your hand or into a bowl when mature (gloves recommended as some grass seeds are sharp).

When to collect

This calendar reflects the dates when the current seedbank stocks were collected so it is to be used as a guide. The guide does not replace regular observations but is a useful “heads up”.

Eucalyptus can hold ripe seed for many months and will often be available on different trees and in different localities throughout the year.

Callistemon and Banksia seed may stay on the plants for several years in a ripe condition so can often be picked for several seasons over the year.

Acacias and legumes do not hold for long - often being ready to pick then gone in the space of a week with hot windy weather.

Very hot days at the height of Summer are great for finalising ripening and opening of many summer ripening species, some explode out of the pods with a snap, crackle and pop.

December is always a busy seed collecting month especially around the Summer Solstice when most people are busy with Christmas.

Most seed is better picked on a dry day after dew has evaporated.

“Fluffy seed” like Olearia, Cassinia and Ozothamnus often seems to ripen up and prepare for release as heat builds before a summer storm. The air is alive and the chase is on to collect before the rain !

Plants of the same species will vary ripening throughout the Far South Coast Region.

The general pattern typically leads to seed closest to the coastline and or on hot, dry, north facing, sunny or exposed positions ripening first – through to south facing aspects in cooler, shadey gullies or at higher elevations last.

Many species will vary when they set and ripen seed depending on prevailing climate weather conditions . This is particularly evident in cycles with ongoing extreme weather events and the same species may have several seeding events in the year in different localities.

So what do I take with me?

- this Seedspotter Workbook.
- phone or camera or GPS.
- maps (topographic) are very useful and help identify land tenure.
- appropriate clothing and footwear.
- hat.
- first aid including constriction bandage.
- tick protection, fabric spray-ons work well.
- water to carry and extra in your vehicle.
- snacks.
- paper or cloth bags for seeds, plastic bags for fruits.
- marker pen to paper for identifying seed which may be found.
- gaiters for leg protection should be considered where snakes may be living.
- a big stick also helps to make noise.
- ID book could be considered, but at very least some leaves and flowerheads should be collected along with the seeds.

Useful tools and equipment to take

- gloves to protect hands.
- clear safety glasses - especially when working above your head.
- you might consider a hard hat as falling sharp branches can cause injury.
- binoculars help to see buds in trees.
- a telescopic pole pruner.
- ground sheets.
- loppers and secateurs.
- plastic tubs.
- a cordless handheld vacuum if targetting fluffy seeds.
- a leaf rake or light broom to collect fallen material.

Names used in Calendar

Some species with recent name changes are shown with old name in brackets.
Common names can be numerous for some species - they are not all shown.

Some Useful Resources

Far South Coast Conservation Management Network - Local Plant Database
fscmn.com/?page_id=116

Far South Coast Landcare Association - Field Notes
[fscmn.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/
Native_seed_collecting_training_notes_9_Feb_2013.pdf](http://fscmn.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Native_seed_collecting_training_notes_9_Feb_2013.pdf)

Trees Near Me NSW
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity/nsw-
bionet/state-vegetation-type-map/trees-near-me-nsw](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity/nsw-bionet/state-vegetation-type-map/trees-near-me-nsw)

iNaturalist
inaturalist.org/places/bega-valley#taxon=47126

Atlas of Life
atlasoflife.org.au

Florabank
florabank.org.au

PlantNET
plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia
by Leon Costermans

Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney
by Les Robinson

Some local species usually ready to harvest in

January

<i>Acacia cognata</i>	Bower Wattle
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood or Hickory Wattle
<i>Acacia maidenii</i>	Maiden's Wattle
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Red stemmed Wattle
<i>Acacia obliquinervia</i>	Mountain Hickory Wattle
<i>Anthosachne scabra (Elymus scaber)</i>	Common Wheat-grass
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	Pale Vanilla Lily
<i>Rytidosperma longifolium</i>	Wallaby Grass
<i>Austrostipa spp.</i>	Speargrasses
<i>Austrostipa stipoides</i>	Coast Speargrass
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Banksia serrata</i>	Old Man or Saw Banksia
<i>Bossiaea obcordata</i>	Spiny Bossiaea
<i>Carex longebrachiata</i>	Drooping Sedge, Bergalia Tussock
<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>	Pigface
<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Common Cassinia
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax Lily
<i>Dichelachne micrantha</i>	Short-hair Plumegrass
<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Southern Mahogany, Bangalay
<i>Eucalyptus eugeniioides</i>	Thin-leaved Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Snow Gum
<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>	Blackbutt
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Ribbon Gum, Manna Gum
<i>Goodia lotifolia</i>	Golden-tip
<i>Libertia paniculata</i>	Flag Lily
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny Mat-rush
<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i>	Bracelet Honey Myrtle
<i>Notelaea venosa</i>	Mock-olive
<i>Olearia axillaris</i>	Coastal Dune Daisy
<i>Oxytes brachypoda (Desmodium brachypodum)</i>	Large Tick-trefoil
<i>Ozothamnus cuneifolius</i>	Wedge-leaf Everlasting
<i>Ozothamnus obcordatus</i>	Grey Everlasting
<i>Pimelea ligustrina</i>	Tall Rice Flower
<i>Poa meionectes</i>	Fine-leaved Snowgrass
<i>Pomaderris aspera</i>	Hazel Pomaderris
<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i>	Sea-berry Saltbush
<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	Small-leaved Native Raspberry
<i>Tetragonia tetragonoides</i>	Warrigal Greens, NZ Spinach
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass
<i>Zoysia macrantha</i>	Prickly Couch

What I saw and picked in January

Use this calender to record seed observations, harvest dates and locations.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30/31						8
29						9
28						10
27						11
26						12
25						13
24						14
23						15
22	21	20	19	18	17	16

Some local species usually ready to harvest in **February**

<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood Wattle
<i>Allocasuarina nana</i>	Dwarf She-oak
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	Vanilla Lily
<i>Austrostipa ramosissima</i>	Stout Bamboo-grass
<i>Austrostipa verticillata</i>	Slender Bamboo-grass
<i>Billardiera mutabilis</i>	Appleberry
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Crimson Bottlebrush
<i>Callistemon subulatus</i>	Dwarf Bottlebrush /River Bottlebrush
<i>Carex pumila</i>	Strand Sedge
<i>Cassinia trinerva</i>	Three-veined Cassinia
<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Spotted Gum
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily
<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>	Koda
<i>Eucalyptus longifolia</i>	Woollybutt
<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i>	Silver Top Ash
<i>Gynochthodes jasminoides</i>	Jasmine Morinda
<i>Hakea microcarpa</i>	Small-fruited Hakea
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Burgan
<i>Jacksonia scoparia</i>	Winged Broom-pea, Dogwood
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<i>Melicytus dentatus (Hymenanthera dentata)</i>	Tree Violet
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
<i>Pomaderris ferrugineus (P. wendlandiana)</i>	Rusty Pomaderris
<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>	Victorian Christmas Bush
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Kangaroo Apple
<i>Sorghum leiocladum</i>	Native Sorghum

What I saw and picked in February

Use this calender to record seed observations, harvest dates and locations.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						8
29						9
28						10
27						11
26						12
25						13
24						14
23						15
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Some local species usually ready to harvest in

March

Acacia silvestris

Angophora floribunda

Banksia serrata

Calomeria amaranthoides

Capillipedium parviflorum

Casuarina cunninghamiana

Chloris truncata

Entolasia stricta

Eucalyptus elata

Ficinia nodosa

Geitonoplesium cymosum

Glycine tabacina

Leptospermum grandifolium

Sannantha pluriflora (*Baeckea virgata*)

Bodalla Wattle

Rough-barked Apple

Old Man Banksia

Incense Plant

Scented-top Grass

River She-oak

Windmill Grass

Wiry Panic

River Peppermint

Knobby Club-rush

Scrambling Lily

Twining Glycine

Mountain Tea-tree

Tall Baeckea

What I saw and picked in March

Use this calendar to record seed observations, harvest dates and locations.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30/31						8
29						9
28						10
27						11
26						12
25						13
24						14
23						15
22	21	20	19	18	17	16

Some local species usually ready to harvest in

April

<i>Acacia blayana</i>	Blay's Wattle
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping She-Oak
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong
<i>Cenchrus caliculatus</i>	Hillside Burrgrass
<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>	Koda
<i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i>	White Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus longifolia</i>	Woollybutt
<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>	Wombat Berry
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Blady Grass
<i>Juncus kraussii</i>	Sea Rush
<i>Kunzea ambigua</i>	Tick Bush
<i>Lomatia myricoides</i>	River Lomatia
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>	Beaded Samphire
<i>Suaeda australis</i>	Seablite

What I saw and picked in April

Use this calender to record seed observations, harvest dates and locations.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30						8
29						9
28						10
27						11
26						12
25						13
24						14
23						15
22	21	20	19	18	17	16

Some local species usually ready to harvest in

May

Allocasuarina littoralis

Brachychiton populneus

Bursaria spinosa

Ficus rubiginosa

Lespedeza juncea

Black She-oak

Kurrajong

Blackthorn

Port Jackson Fig

Lespedeza, Bush Clover

What I saw and picked in May

Use this calendar to record seed observations, harvest dates and locations.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30/31						8
29						9
28						10
27						11
26						12
25						13
24						14
23						15
22	21	20	19	18	17	16

Some local species usually ready to harvest in

June

Acacia implexa

Eucalyptus longifolia

Eucalyptus muelleriana

Melaleuca hypericifolia

Tristaniopsis laurina

Lightwood Wattle

Woollybutt

Yellow Stringybark

Hillock Bush

Water Gum, Kanooka

What I saw and picked in June

Use this calender to record seed observations, harvest dates and locations.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30						8
29						9
28						10
27						11
26						12
25						13
24						14
23						15
22	21	20	19	18	17	16

Some local species usually ready to harvest in

July

Allocasuarina littoralis

Callistemon subulatus

Casuarina glauca

Leptospermum emarginatum

Leptospermum lanigerum

Melaleuca parvistaminea

Phragmites australis

Tristaniopsis laurina

Black She-oak

River Bottlebrush

Swamp Oak

Twin- flower Tea-tree

Woolly Tea-tree

Rough-barked Honey-myrtle

Common Reed

Water Gum, Kanooka

What I saw and picked in July

Use this calendar to record seed observations, harvest dates and locations.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30/31						8
29						9
28						10
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26						12
25						13
24						14
23						15
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Some local species usually ready to harvest in

August

Allocasuarina littoralis

Callistemon citrinus

Callistemon subulatus

Casuarina cunninghamiana

Corymbia maculata

Eucalyptus baueriana

Eucalyptus botryoides

Eucalyptus pauciflora

Eucalyptus tricarpa

Leptospermum continentale

Leptospermum obovatum

Melaleuca ericifolia

Black She-oak

Crimson Bottlebrush

River Bottlebrush

River She-oak

Spotted Gum

Blue Box

Southern Mahogany, Bangalay

Snow Gum

Three-fruited or Black Ironbark

Prickly Tea-tree

River Tea-tree

Swamp Paperbark

What I saw and picked in August

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30/31						8
29						9
28						10
27						11
26						12
25						13
24						14
23						15
22	21	20	19	18	17	16

Some species usually ready to harvest in September

Allocasuarina littoralis
Allocasuarina verticillata
Casuarina glauca
Eucalyptus bosistoana
Eucalyptus paniculata
Melaleuca armillaris
Melaleuca ericifolia
Melaleuca hypericifolia
Melaleuca squarrosa
Xanthorrhoea concava

Black She-oak
Drooping She-oak
Swamp Oak
Grey Box
Grey Ironbark
Bracelet Honey-myrtle
Swamp Paperbark
Hillock Bush
Scented Paperbark
Grass Tree

What I saw and picked in September

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30						8
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Some local species usually ready to harvest in

October

Eucalyptus sieberi

Leptospermum continentale

Leptospermum polygalifolium

Poa billardierei (*Festuca littoralis*)

Xerochrysum bracteatum

Silvertop Ash

Prickly Tea-tree

Tantoon, Yellow Tea-tree

Beach Fescue

Golden Everlasting, Strawflower

What I saw and picked in October

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30/31						8
29						9
28						10
27						11
26						12
25						13
24						14
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Some species usually ready to harvest in November

<i>Acacia brownii</i>	Heath Wattle
<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	Gossamer or Sallee Wattle
<i>Acacia suaveolens</i>	Sweet Wattle
<i>Acacia subporosa</i>	Sticky Bower Wattle
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black She-oak
<i>Bulbine glauca</i>	Bulbine Lily
<i>Coronidium elatum</i>	White Paper Daisy
<i>Dodonaea truncatiales</i>	Angular Hop-bush
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Hop Bush
<i>Eucalyptus angophoroides</i>	Apple-topped Box
<i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i>	White Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus maidenii</i>	Maiden's Gum, Southern Blue Gum
<i>Eucalyptus smithii</i>	Gully Gum, Blackbutt Peppermint
<i>Hakea decurrens</i>	Bushy Needlewood
<i>Myoporum acuminatum</i>	Pointed Boobialla
<i>Myoporum boninense</i>	Coastal Myoporum or Boobialla
<i>Olearia tomentosa</i>	Toothed Daisy Bush
<i>Ozothamnus argophyllus</i>	Spicy Everlasting
<i>Ozothamnus ferrugineus</i>	Tree Everlasting
<i>Poa billardierei (Festuca littoralis)</i>	Beach Fescue
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i>	Golden Everlasting, Strawflower

What I saw and picked in November

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30						8
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Some species usually ready to harvest in

December

<i>Acacia cognata</i>	Bower Wattle
<i>Acacia elongata</i>	Swamp Wattle
<i>Acacia georgensis</i>	Bega Wattle,
	Dr George Mountain Wattle
<i>Acacia irrorata</i>	Green Wattle
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sydney Golden Wattle
<i>Acacia longifolia subsp sophorae</i>	Coast Wattle
<i>Acacia mabellae</i>	Mabel's Wattle
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Late Black Wattle
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood Wattle
<i>Acacia obtusifolia</i>	Blunt-leaf Wattle
<i>Acacia pedina</i>	A Hickory Wattle
<i>Acacia silvestris</i>	Bodalla Silver Wattle
<i>Acacia suaveolens</i>	Sweet Wattle
<i>Acacia terminalis</i>	Sunshine Wattle
<i>Androcalva rossii (Commersonia fraseri)</i>	Native Hemp
<i>Austrostipa spp.</i>	Spear Grasses
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coast Banksia
<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i>	Port Jackson Pine
<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge
<i>Cassinia longifolia</i>	Long-leaf or Shiny Cassinia
<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>	Headache Vine
<i>Daviesia mimosoides</i>	Narrow-leaf Bitter Pea
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	Gorse Bitter Pea
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Blue Flax-lily
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Smooth Flax-lily
<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	Large-leaf Hop-bush
<i>Echinopogon ovatus</i>	Hedgehog Grass
<i>Eucalyptus agglomerata</i>	Blue-leaved Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i>	Mountain Grey Gum
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	Red-fruit Saw Sedge
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple Coral Pea
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Australian Indigo
<i>Rytidosperma pallidum</i>	Red-anther Wallaby Grass
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Scarlet Coral Pea
<i>Kennedia rubicunda</i>	Dusky Coral Pea, Running Postman
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<i>Notelaea venosa</i>	Mock-olive

What I saw and picked in December

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Some species usually ready to harvest in

December

Rytidosperma longifolium.

Pandorea pandorana

Pelargonium australe

Plectranthus graveolens

Poa labillardierei

Poa meionectes

Poa poiformis

Pultenaea daphnoides

Pultenaea hispidula

Sorghum leiocladum

Senecio linearifolius

Xanthorrhoea australis

Zieria smithii

Long-leaved Wallaby Grass

Wonga Wonga Vine

Wild Geranium

Native Coleus

Common Tussock-grass

Fine-leaved Snowgrass

Coastal Tussock-grass

Large-leaf Bush-pea

Rusty Bush-pea

Native Sorghum

Native Fireweed

Grass Tree

Sandfly Zieria

What I saw and picked in December

Use this calendar to record seed observations, harvest dates and locations.

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22	21	20	19	18	17	16

Notes and drawings

Notes and drawings

Notes and drawings

Notes and drawings

Notes and drawings

Notes and drawings

Notes and drawings



Join the Seedspotter Network

Far South Coast Landcare Association Native Seedbank needs your help to identify and locate native plants with seeds ready to harvest.

Join us on facebook or email us to keep in touch, view seedbank news, ask questions and lodge observations.

Seedbank co-ordinator: Merryn Carey

email: fsclaseedbank@gmail.com

facebook: Far South Coast Landcare Seedbank

address: Old Bega Hospital, 3 Corkhill Place, Bega, NSW, 2550



Australian Government



In 2023/24, this project received FireWise grant funding from the Australian Government through the "Preparing Australian Communities local stream"