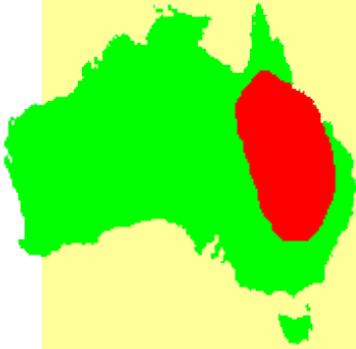


Eremophila mitchellii



Family:	Scrophulariaceae
Distribution:	A variety of habitats in northern New South Wales and Queensland.
Common Name:	False sandalwood, Budda.
Derivation of Name:	<i>Eremophila</i> ...from Greek, <i>eremos</i> , desert and <i>phileo</i> , to love, ie "desert loving", referring to the habitat of many of the species. <i>mitchellii</i> ... After the explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell.
Conservation Status:	Not considered to be at risk in the wild.

General Description:

Eremophila is a large genus of 214 species, all endemic to Australia. They are generally plants of inland and arid areas and are popular with Australian plant enthusiasts.



Eremophila mitchellii

Photo: Keith Townsend

Eremophila mitchellii is a large shrub or small tree to 10 metres high with flaky bark. The leaves are linear or lance-shaped up to 60 mm long by 5 mm wide with an acute, hooked apex. The flowers are usually white or cream but pale pink forms are known. They are about 10 - 18 mm long, tubular in shape and with spots within the throat. They occur in the leaf axils and are mainly seen in spring. The fruits are egg shaped and about 7 mm long.

E. mitchellii is not widely cultivated but, like most eremophilas, it would be best suited to dry climates but should also be reasonably adaptable to more humid, temperate areas. It should grow on a variety of well drained soils,

preferably in a sunny position.

In some areas of Australia it is a serious pest of grazing land. The species is not permitted to be grown in Western Australia.

Propagation from seed of *Eremophila* species is unreliable. A number of treatment methods have been tried including sowing the ripe fruits, sowing of aged and washed fruits and splitting the fruits to extract the seeds prior to sowing. The latter involves splitting the fruits in halves and quarters but some seeds are inevitably damaged during the process.

E.mitchellii can be grown from cuttings of hardened, current season's growth.