

Pultenaea villosa – Eggs and Bacon

It forms a graceful weeping shrub 2m high by 3m across, with a much branched and spreading habit. Due to its excellent natural form the shrub should be allowed to attain its full height and spread to show itself to best advantage. It is thus best grown as a specimen plant. The last 15cm or so of the branches hang in a weeping manner. The leaves vary in length from 5 mm to 7mm and are oblong to cuneate in shape and covered with dense short hairs giving the whole plant a greyish bloom.

Flowering is from Spring to Summer and the flowers are bright yellow in colour. Flowering density is high. Seed is ripe in late Summer to early Autumn.

In cultivation it seems to appreciate a moist soil with average drainage. The plant performs best in an open position with sun for at least half a day. Those specimens grown in the Australian National Botanic Gardens in heavier shade grow spindlier than those in an open position. Supplementary watering is needed during the warmer summer months.

Propagation

Propagation is easy from seed following pre-treatment to break the physical dormancy provided by the impervious seed coat.

Pre-treatment can be carried out by abrasion - gently rub the seed between folded sandpaper -or by placing the seed in near boiling water and allowing it to soak overnight as the water cools. The seed retains viability for many years.

Sow spring at 20°C. When they are large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and grow them on for at least their first Winter. Plant them out into their permanent positions in late Spring or early Summer, after the last expected frosts. Give the plants some protection from the cold for at least its first winter outdoors.