

In My Garden

Laxmannia gracilis



It grows naturally on our property and comes up in the driest and the toughest of alleged soils in wind-blown areas under trees and fence lines as well as on embankments.

It has the cutest little white flower which has a hint of pink to it. *Laxmannia gracilis* grows to approximately 20cm x 20cm. They clearly tolerated the drought



conditions but benefitted from the rains when they broke the drought.

I have previously transplanted small plants to other parts of the garden ensuring they were still in tough conditions and watered a few times only, then left to their own devices. One was potted up for Jan and David. Care was taken not to disturb the plant roots. A good amount of soil surrounding the plant was dug up, placed in a tray and backfilled with a mix of our soil and a small amount of native potting mix.

Maybe I should look for seed to grow some more *Laxmannia gracilis*.

A gardener can never have enough plants 😊

Carolyn Noake

We are so fortunate to have this little plant 'Slender wire-lily' from the Anthericaceae family flowering prolifically now.



Grevillea Peaches and Cream in our gardens and on our walls

G. Peaches and Cream: “The cultivar is a cross between a white-flowered form of the Queensland species *Grevillea banksii*, and *G. bipinnatifida* from Western Australia, and was selected from a plant which arose in a garden in Logan Village, a southern suburb of Brisbane, in 1997. It was watched and propagated by Queensland horticulturists and SGAP members Dennis Cox and Janice Glazebrook, finally being patented in 2006”



(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grevillea_%27Peaches_and_Cream%27)

We have six plants growing well in our garden. The original plant came from a cutting that apparently did not have much hope of success. This story is about three ways in which one little lesson inspired my love of this grevillea.

When John Knight was manager at the ERBG, he taught me things about plants including propagating, pruning, weeding, potting on and planting.

In one propagating session he described to us what to look for to get the best propagating material. G. Peaches and Cream was one of those plants (gift for the biannual ANSPA conference if you were wondering why a cultivar was at the ERBG).

We were to look for semi hard cutting material of this grevillea. John demonstrated a cutting that had new growth and was quite floppy. He then showed us what to choose to get the best outcome from propagating. We gathered our material and learned how to, look for the nodes, remove extraneous leaves, wound the stem, place into rooting hormone and carefully place in the special propagating mix. Watering, caring for the cuttings, checking for root development and even when to tube the plants up.

We all did our cuttings and I hope those that partook can remember their own plants growing roots and developing into beautiful plants.

Remember that little floppy cutting? I could not bear for it go to waste, so I snuck it into my pot of cuttings. My cuttings were duly cared for according to instructions. You may call it beginners' luck or exquisite timing but that little cutting has developed into a wonderful plant. It grows near the house and since the big *Callistemon salignus* was pruned to 1m, is much happier in full sunlight.

The inspiration of that day's activities and the beauty of that plant led me to experiment further.



© Anne Hayes

As part of three-year creative embroidery course with the Embroiderers Guild of NSW I was required to design and goldwork embroider a flower.

There is a wonderful painting of *Grevillea peaches and cream* by botanical artist Anne Hayes.

Please take the time to view her work at <https://annehayes.com.au/botanical/> Her work is so inspirational.

Lacking the beautiful colours of *Grevillea Peaches and Cream* I have used the inspiration of John and Anne Hayes to create my work.

Who or what inspires you?

From where does your inspiration stem (sorry)?

Happy is anything to do with plants

