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Hello and thank you for checking out the Aussie Green Thumb guide to the beautiful, another plant that is right up there with my favourites.

In this bonus report I will detail 4 different varieties of Adenanthos, including my favourite the Adenanthos sericeus or Albany Woolly Bush.

## Adenanthos obovatus



Genus: Adenanthos Species: *obovatus* Common Name: Basket Flower Flower Colour: Orange Foliage Colour: Green Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m Flowering: Spring, Winter

What captivates me about this variety of Adenanthos is the beautiful mix of the orange flowers and the green leaves.

I haven't grown this variety myself but from all reports it is a fantastic Western Australian native.

It is a shrub that will grow to about 1 to 1.5m in height and has wonderful little flowers, flowering mostly in winter and spring.

Prefers sand or gravel or loam soil and grows best when planted in full sun or part shade environment.

Might have to go out and check this variety out myself!

## Adenanthos cuneatus



Genus: Adenanthos Species*: cuneatus* Common Name: Coral Drift Flower Colour: Purple Foliage Colour: Grey Growth Habit: Shrub to 1m Flowering: Spring, Summer, Autumn

The *cuneatus* variety of Adenanthos is native to the South West of Western Australia.

It has a fantastic growth habit, growing to about 1.5m wide.

The *cuneatus* responds very well to pruning at the end of the flowering season and makes a good hedge plant or space filler.

When covered in flower it is absolutely stunning.

Another bird attracting Australian Native Plant.

## Adenanthos cuneatus groundcover

Although I've already mentioned the Adenanthos cuneatus, this variety has a bit of a twist, because this variety is now ALSO available in a ground cover form.



Genus: Adenanthos Species: cuneatus (ground cover) Common Name: Coral Carpet Flower Colour: Purple Foliage Colour: Grey Growth Habit: Ground Cover Flowering: Spring, Summer, Autumn

George Lullfitz, the owner of Lullfitz Nursery, produced a variety of the *cuneatus* with the growth habit of a ground cover in 2005.

This is a fantastic mix of the strengths of the traditional *cuneatus* and the benefits of a lower growing ground cover.

Many people like the *cuneatus* but are wanting a smaller plant.

This ground cover variety works well because it grows well and can cover a large amount of space.

## **Adenanthos Sericeus**

The best of the lot, in my humble opinion, is actually native to the area I spent most of my childhood: the Albany Woolly Bush.



Genus: Adenanthos Species*: sericeus* Common Name: Albany Woolly Bush or Silver Streak Flower Colour: Red Foliage Colour: Grey-Green Growth Habit: Shrub 3m+ Flowering: Spring, Summer, Autumn

The Albany Woolly Bush is an absolutely fantastic Australian Native Plant.

It is extremely hardy, surviving on very little water once established, and has the most beautiful grey-green leaves.

It is also extremely soft leaved and will grow to a very large size if allowed. Probably what the Albany Woolly Bush is best known for is it's suitability to be used as an Australian Native Christmas Tree.

Many people either grow themselves or buy an Albany Woolly Bush around Christmas time because it really suits this purpose well. The grey-green leaves give it a colour that almost 'hints' at being snow covered (which Australians still seem to like the idea of, even though many of us have never seen snow) and because of the size the Woolly Bush grows to, you really can get a decent sized Christmas tree.

A fellow blogging friend of mine, Stuart, has a really good review of this plant with some good reader questions about propagation. It can be found <u>here.</u>