



# Lotus australis

## Austral Trefoil



(Seeds of South Australia)



(Lawrenz, R, iNaturalist Australia)



Male



Female

Long-tailed  
Pea-blue

(SA Butterflies & Moths)

**Form:** Low shrub

**Height:** 0.3 – 0.6 m    **Spread:** 0.5 – 1.5 m    **Flowers:** Pink

**Type:** Pea    **Flowering time:** Spring, Summer

**Ecological functions:**



**Soils:** sand or loam; acidic, alkaline or neutral

**Germination rate:** 3 to 5 weeks

**Seed collecting:** wear gloves, pick pods by hands when they mature to a brown colour. Place in warm area to dry.

**Seed treatment:** place seeds into a sieve and dip into hot but NOT BOILING water for 30 seconds. Immediately immerse in cold water and soak for 6 hours. Remove and sow immediately.

**Sowing requirements:** cover seed to its own depth with damp soil and firm gently. Then cover with a layer of gravel. Sow from early Spring.

**Position:** full sun

**Supplementary watering:** minimal

**Uses:** attractive small perennial herb for native landscaping or coastal locations. Naturally occurring in grassy woodland. Fast growing but short lived for open or free draining sites. Attracts native butterflies, caterpillar food source. Food host to Long-tailed Pea-blue (*Lampides boeticus*) caterpillars.