Burchardia umbellata

Milkmaids

(Seeds of South Australia)

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(Kleinert, D, Austraflora)

Form: *Groundcover* **Height:** *0.1 – 0.6 m* **Spread:** *0.2 m* **Flowers:** *White* **Type:** *Lilies, orchids* **Flowering time:** *Spring*

Ecological functions:

Soils: *Well-drained sandy to loamy* **Germination rate:** *4 to 10 weeks*

Seed collecting: Collect mature capsules that are a red-brown colour with dark brown seeds inside. Allow capsules to dry for one to two weeks and dislodge them gently by hand. Store the seeds for two to three months before sowing. Seeds stored with a desiccant (dried silica beads or dry rice) at room temperature may stay viable for long periods.

Seed treatment: Treat with smoke to increase germination rate.

Sowing requirements: Sow seed 1-2mm deep and water with fine mist spray. Keep warm & moist. Adding soil from parent plants may improve growth. Sow in Autumn. Requires well-drained soils.

Position: Sunny or lightly shaded location.

Supplementary watering: Moderate

Uses: Can be attractive when planted in native landscapes as clusters amongst trees with a light canopy, in rockeries or containars. The carrot-like tubers were an important food source for the Kaurna people.

Notes: These plants are dormant in Summer.

Sources: Austraflora; Seeds of South Australia; Tree Project; Greening Australia.