



Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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Plant of the month: Coast Everlasting *Ozothamnus turbinatus*



Coast Everlasting *Ozothamnus turbinatus* is a dense shrub with an upright or rounded habit, growing on exposed coastal sand dunes and calcareous cliffs near the southern coastline from South Australia to New South Wales and including Tasmania. The leaves are stiff, narrow and grey-green to 25 mm long, woolly-white below tinged yellow at the base with the margins rolled under. The flowers occur in dense terminal clusters of 20-40 cream tubular flowerheads that are surrounded by hairy yellowish bracts, from February to May. The tiny brown seed has a long tuft of bristles or 'pappus' at one end to aid in wind dispersal. Venus Bay has some very good examples near the beach access points.



Coast Everlasting requires well-drained sandy soil and full sun and is easily grown. It tolerates salt spray, windy and exposed conditions and is useful for binding sand in coastal gardens. Hard pruning in winter after flowering will maintain its bushy shape. Propagation is from seed or cuttings.

A member of the Asteraceae or daisy family, the genus name *Ozothamnus* is from the Greek 'ozo' to smell and 'thamnus', shrub, indicating that it is fragrant when crushed. The species name '*turbinatus*' is from the Latin for top-shaped.

For further information please visit FVBP website above. Photo: Lorraine Norden.