

MEDIA PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

31st March 2015

Grey Box™ *Westringia* crowned Plant of the Year 2015

On the 24th of March 2015, at the prestigious Nursery & Garden Industry Australia Awards, the hardy and compact native hedging plant, **Grey Box™ *Westringia fruticosa* 'WES04'** PBR was awarded Plant of the Year for 2015. Robert Prince, CEO of Nursery and Garden Industry Australia, said judges were extremely impressed with the plant's environmental qualities.

The Grey Box™ plant was developed by Nuflora at the Plant Breeding Institute, which is part of Sydney University. This breeding has given Australia a truly remarkable plant that has changed the way people think of *Westringia* and is well deserved of the title; Plant of the Year.

Grey Box™ *westringia* has been an outstanding seller for nurseries around Australia. It provides great colour contrast with distinctive year round grey foliage and masses of beautiful white flowers from September to May, delivering an impressive eye catching display. It also gives a particularly striking contrast when planted with Ozbreed Aussie Box® *Westringia*.

One of the qualities that makes Grey Box™ *Westringia* stand above the rest is its incredible robustness, tolerating drought, frost, humidity and one of its unique characteristics is that unlike the majority of other *Westringia* varieties the Grey Box™ plant will also tolerate periodic wet feet. It has been tested in extreme cold, down to -9 degrees Celsius and has performed well in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and Canberra. It is best when planted in full sun to light shade and is very well suited to most soil types including sandy and heavy clay soils. Like other *Westringia*, it will also tolerate the harsh salt laden winds of coastal areas.

It is wonderfully versatile in application and as an Australian native is far more tolerant of the diverse Australian climate. Grey Box™ *westringia* provides a brilliantly tough, faster establishing and lower maintenance alternative to exotic box plants, such as English Box, for small formal hedges and when mass planted will give a sea of very compact, tidy, naturally 'ball shaped' plants. It is also an ideal choice for garden borders and is a wonderfully low maintenance plant for containers. The adaptability of the Grey Box™ plant doesn't end there, it has proven in Green Roof trials to work extremely well and will work in Green Roofs across Australia. It is a highly recommended native plant for Greenwalls for most states across Australia and due to its outstanding tolerance for periodic wet feet, it is the only *Westringia* variety recommended for Raingardens.

Unpruned Grey Box™ Westringia will grow to approximately 45-55cm high x 45-55cm wide and will retain an aesthetically pleasing naturally round tidy shape. It can be pruned to a minimum height of 30cm and a width of 30cm, one to three times a year after flowering.

With its super compact form, beautiful foliage and exceptional versatility, Grey Box™ Westringia makes the perfect plant for landscapes and gardens alike.



Graham Ross & Todd Layt (Ozbreed)



Grey Box™ Westringia fruticosa 'WES04' PBR (more natural ball shape)



Grey Box™ Westringia fruticosa 'WES04' PBR (pruned into compact hedge)



Plant of the Year Award

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For more information on **Grey Box™ Westringia**, visit www.ozbreed.com.au/native-shrubs-ground-covers/grey-box.html or alternatively contact Ozbreed direct on 02 4577 2977 or at info@ozbreed.com.au