

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Slender Speedwell

Veronica gracilis

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Plantaginaceae Plantain
Size:	25cm H x 25cm W
Position:	Lightly shaded
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune after flowering

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Slender Speedwell** (*Veronica gracilis*) is a small, sprawling, narrow-leaved plant up to 25cm high and 25cm wide.

Location: Slender Speedwell likes a lightly shaded position, possibly in a well-watered rockery or in a garden bed amongst other larger plants.

Flowers: The flowers are only small – about 1cm across – but they are a lovely open cup of pale mauve highlighted by dark veins fading towards a pale centre.

Planting: It will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: When it has finished flowering, give it a prune – just grab a handful of foliage and snip it all back to about a third of its original length. You can be quite adventurous with this and the plant will stay nice and compact and showy.

Propagation: Slender Speedwell is a slow growing plant and won't tend to spread. If you want to grow more, the best thing to do is let the stems grow. If left unpruned for a year or two, it will form small roots along the stems where they are in contact with the ground. These can be separated from the parent and plant elsewhere.

When you prune, bury the bunches of cut stems in the ground, leaving only a very small number of leaves uncovered. If you water them well for several weeks most will eventually grow into new plants.