



Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

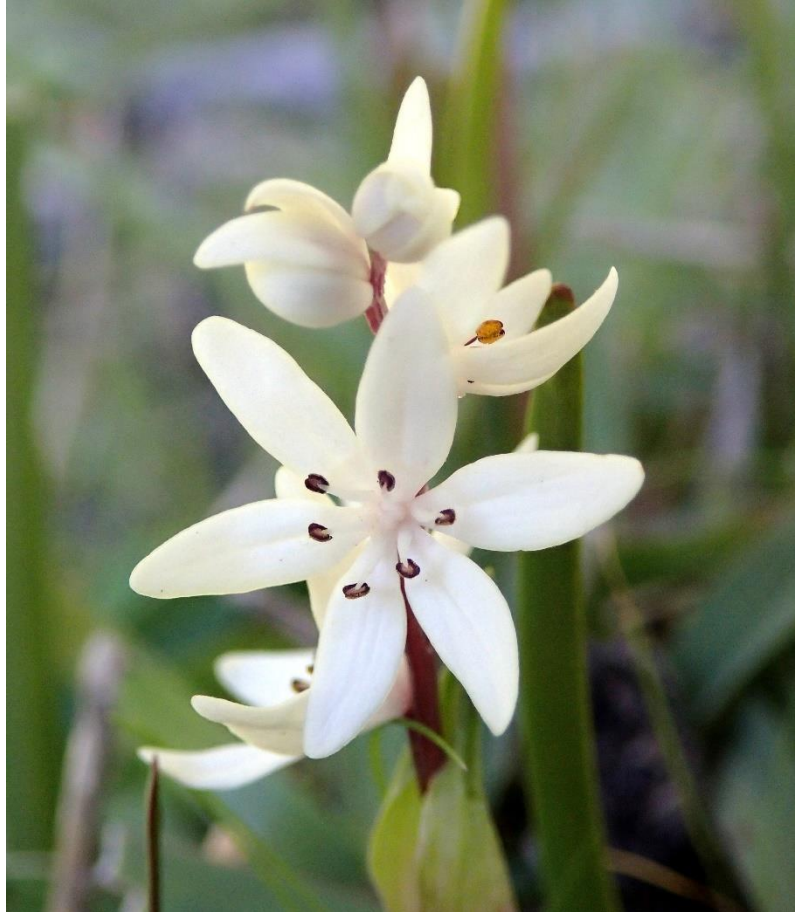
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Plant of the month: Broad-leaf Early Nancy *Wurmbea latifolia*



Broad-leaf Early Nancy *Wurmbea latifolia* is a small dioecious perennial herb, growing from 5-12 cm high with three linear, stem-sheathing leaves growing to 12 cm long and 1.5-8 mm wide at mid-point. The scented white flowers 12-18 mm wide, occur in a spike of 2-9; from July to September. The seed capsule is 2.5-4 mm long. The male flower in the photo shows the purple anthers.

There are two subspecies of *Wurmbea latifolia*, only subsp. *vanessae* is found in Victoria. This special plant is uncommon in the east of the state, previously only recorded at Wilsons Promontory. The plant was first recorded at Venus Bay in 2013.

Broad-leaf Early Nancy will grow in full sun or semi-shade and usually occurs in heavy soil.

Early Nancy belongs in the Colchicaceae family. The genus name *Wurmbea* is named after Friedrich Wilhelm von Wurmb, merchant and botanist in 18th century Batavia (Jakarta). *Latifolia* is from the

Latin *latus* meaning broad or wide and *folium* meaning a leaf; referring to the species broad leaves. Photo: Lorraine Norden.

