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Plant of the month: Shiny Swamp-mat *Selliera radicans*



Shiny Swamp-mat *Selliera radicans* is a prostrate, matting perennial herb, rooting at the nodes, with stems to 50 cm long. The succulent, bright green leaves are spoon-shaped and grow up to 11 cm long x 3.5 cm wide. Flowers are fan-shaped and have 5 white to mauve petals of equal length, from October to April. Shiny Swamp-mat commonly grows in coastal saltmarsh but is also found in wet areas along lakes and streams. It is found in the south-eastern States, New Zealand and South America. At Venus Bay it is found in the saltmarsh community and fringing areas along Anderson Inlet.

Shiny Swamp-mat is salt tolerant and will grow in moist soil in full sun to full shade. It is an attractive ground covering plant around ponds and is useful as a soil stabiliser. Propagation is from cuttings or division.

The genus *Selliera* belongs in the Goodeniaceae or Fan-flower family and is named after Francois Noel Sellier, an 18th century French engraver who prepared botanical illustrations. The species name *radicans* means the plant roots from its stems.



Photo: Lorraine Norden. For more information visit www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au