



Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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Plant of the month: Hop Goodenia *Goodenia ovata*



Hop Goodenia *Goodenia ovata* is a fast growing, erect shrub up to 2 metres high. The glossy green ovate leaves are finely serrated; 3-8 cm long x 1-4 cm wide. Yellow flowers occur in the leaf axils and are tubular with irregular lobes, two above and three below, 1-2.5 cm across, from September to March. Flowers are followed by a cylindrical capsule enclosing small pale seeds. It is widespread in all states except Western Australia and Northern Territory and occurs at Venus Bay in the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and surrounds.

Hop Goodenia is a pioneer plant and often appears in large stands following fire. The shrub grows in full sun to full shade, prefers moist, well-drained soils and tolerates waterlogging. It is a caterpillar food plant. In the garden, hard pruning every few years keeps the shrub bushy and prolongs the flowering period. Propagation is from seed or cuttings.

Goodenia belongs in the Goodeniaceae Family and the genus is named after the 18th to 19th century botanist Samuel Goodenough. The species name *ovata* refers to the egg-shape of the leaves.



Photo: Lorraine Norden. More Venus Bay flora information is available at

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