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Plant of the month: Angled Lobelia *Lobelia anceps*



Angled Lobelia *Lobelia anceps* is a spreading perennial herb that spreads from the nodes, which may grow to 30 cm or form a matted ground cover. The leaves are narrow to 8.5 cm long and may be toothed or entire, with leaf blades that are decurrent or extend down the stem giving it an angled appearance. The small pale blue/violet fan-shaped flowers are two-lipped, with 5 lobes; the upper two lobes much smaller than the lower three, for most of the year, peaking November to April. Fruit is a small capsule with light brown seeds. Angled Lobelia grows in moist sheltered areas in Venus Bay, Point Smythe and along Anderson Inlet. It grows in a range of vegetation communities but mainly on the edges of water and seepage lines of coastal cliffs. It occurs in all States except Northern Territory.

Angled Lobelia provides a colourful addition in moist soils and can be useful planted as a soil binder, tolerating light foot traffic if used as a grass alternative. Propagation is from seed, cuttings or division.

The genus *Lobelia* belongs in the Campanulaceae or Bellflower family, named after Mathias L'Obel, 1538-1616, a Flemish botanist who was also physician to James 1 of England. The species name *anceps* means two-edged or two-headed.

For further information please visit FVBP website above. Photo: Lorraine Norden.

