



INDIGENOUS GARDEN

Atriplex nummularia (Old Man Saltbush)

Indigenous use

Indigenous Australians ate the leaves of *Atriplex nummularia* and ground the leaves and roots into water, they would then bathe any skin abrasions in the water to help heal them. Oldman saltbush was also used as windbreaks, firebreaks and shade, and to optimise soil conditions for agriculture.

Description

It is a sprawling grey-blue shrub, up to 3 metres high and sometimes spreading to 5 metres wide. A long living plant, it grows strongly after periods of summer rain, producing long tassels of flowering seed heads.



Habitat

The saltbush grows in the semi-arid and arid regions of mainland Australia.