Edible Waxflower – exciting native food sensation

For many years Waxflower (Chamelaucium sp.) has been a very popular native landscape plant as well as being grown on large scale for the cut flower industry. With the surge of interest in cooking with Australian native plants, Waxflower also has some very exciting culinary applications.

Helix Australia has been investing in developing this exciting new growth segment for its expanding waxflower breeding and licensing business.

"To date, uptake of our waxflower as an edible native plant has predominantly been at the high end restaurant level with high profile restaurants such as Attica in Melbourne, Orana in Adelaide and Wildflower in Perth all including waxflower in their menu," said Adrian Parsons, Managing Director Helix Australia.

"The citrus flavour profile of waxflower has been used in restaurants alongside native food staples such as Finger

Limes, Lemon myrtle, Quandongs, Warrigal greens and Davidson plums."

Parsons continued, "We have also had our waxflower used in an Archie Rose native gin and waxflower recently featured in the Masterchef Australia final where finalist Laura Sharrad paired seared Bonito with Lily pilly, saltbush and waxflower oil."

Masterchef judge Jock Zonfrillo said, "The use of waxflower oil was pure genius."

Australia chefs have typically been preparing the waxflower as an infused oil and also creating a flavoursome paste similar to salsa verde.

Helix Australia research into waxflower as an edible plant is trialling use of the leaf fresh, dried (for teas) and also in a freeze dried powder form.

The ultimate goal will be to turn waxflower into a culinary staple that sits on the supermarket shelf alongside basil and coriander and also as an edible garden plant like rosemary or thyme.

Helix Australia looks forward to informing growers and retail garden centres of further development of its range of waxflower suitable for the booming edible native plant category.



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