

Pigface (Karkalla)

Carpobrotus rossii · Aizoaceae, native to Australia

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Perennial succulent groundcover, native to Australia

MATURITY 1–2 years to good production



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Low, drought
and salt tolerant



SOIL PH
5.5–8.5



SPACING
0.5–1m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Both leaves and fruit are edible

A dual-purpose coastal succulent — the fig-like fruit is edible fresh or in jams, and the salty, tangy leaves work well pickled or added fresh to salads, well suited to a low-water [homestead](#) planting.

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot, or strike easily from stem cuttings.
SOIL	Adaptable — sandy, clay, or lime-rich coastal soil all work well.
TIMING	Plant in spring or autumn.

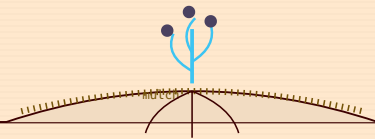
Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Very few pests** — a hardy, trouble-free native.
- **Waterlogging** — the main risk; ensure sharp drainage.
- **Spreading too far** — vigorous; trim to keep it contained.
- **Frost in the coldest zones** — protect young plants in cold areas.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Other coastal/salt-tolerant natives	Poorly drained, wet spots	Not applicable — long-lived perennial groundcover.



mulched bed, shallow roots

03 Growing care

- Water while establishing; drought and salt tolerant once settled in.
- Let it spread — this is a natural trailing groundcover habit.
- No feeding needed — it thrives in poor, sandy soil.
- Trim back if it spreads further than wanted; it roots readily where stems touch soil.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit softens and turns reddish-purple, usually through summer.
METHOD	Pick by hand once soft; leaves can be picked any time.
CURING	None needed — good eaten fresh, or made into jam.
STORAGE	Fridge a few days; fruit pulp freezes well for later use.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (drying for long-term storage) or Freezing Produce (freezing a harvest surplus) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.