

# **HARDENBERGIA VIOLACEA GRESFORD BELLE**

**from Riverdene Nurseries**

It is amazing how even the commonest plants can surprise you if you are looking in the right place. Early in the spring of 2015 my daughter arrived home and said – “What is the deep purplish shrub in flower near the Council Quarry?” – “Don’t know what you’re talking about” was my reply so we



went to have a look.

When we got there I said it’s just a bloody

Hardenbergia and they are everywhere – “Not those ones” she said

“That one over there on the edge of the road!”

When I had a good look, there it was; a shrub about 35cm high and an absolute mass of tightly packed deep purplish blue flowers and me with no camera!!! I did have a pair of secateurs and as it was in real danger of

being wiped out by a passing vehicle or the roadside slashers I decided to collect about half of the plant for cutting material and leave the other half as a back-up and pray the grader did not turn up for a while.

The original propagations struck and grew well. The plants have exceeded expectations in growth and flower colour and floral display. A has proven to be a very hardy sub-shrub growing to about 50cms high with a mass of violet-purple flowers late winter to early spring. Best in full sun, hardy to frost and drought when established.



As for the name – well I could not think of a better name for it than Gresford Belle. We were so impressed by this little plant that we did not bother doing growing trials it because we are so confident of its ability to grow well. The photo above prints out a lot darker than it is so I have lightened it in the bottom photo but it does not do its vibrant colours justice!!!