

# Meet the Breeder

**Tibouchina 'Fantasy Flowers'®**

**Terry Keogh – Unique Plants**

Terry's horticultural career began with a passion for fruiting plants, kicking off in 1980 by establishing a small Avocado orchard. Terry moved on to actively breeding new varieties of plants in 1995 in response to customer feedback and trying to meet market demand for small manageable sizes. His first plant breeding projects included Callistemons, Pentas and Metrosideros.

Later Terry became fascinated with the beauty of Tibouchinas. He was taken with how these Brazilian natives make a real statement in the landscape. Recognising the consumer demand for more colours he began to breed Tibouchinas in 1995.

"I decided to take a look at breeding them due to the overwhelming demand for other colours"

Investing time, patience and energy over the ensuing years, Terry experimented with a variety of pollination and propagation techniques. This is an extremely trying genus – in the wild pollen is released from the stamens of Tibouchinas by the frequency of vibrations of Hummingbird wings – not the easiest thing to replicate!

Terry's expertise is ground breaking. To our knowledge, there is no other active Tibouchina breeding program in the world. Terry's Tibouchinas are expected to be one of the most successful collections Australia has seen in recent times.



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