

Blue Lace Flower *Trachymene coerulea*



NATIVE PLANT NOTES

Description

This spring/summer-flowering annual complements Pink Everlastings, as it flowers later and extends the display period. Plants grow to a height of 0.2–1.2 m by 0.5 m wide, have decorative foliage and look attractive planted throughout native gardens either en masse or as individual specimens.

Flowers

The flower heads are generally shades of blue and can be as large as 50 mm across. Plants flower profusely with open, multi-branched, terminal heads.

Growing conditions

The Blue Lace Flower grows naturally from Geraldton to Albany, mainly in coastal areas and is sometimes referred to as the Rottnest Island Daisy. To achieve the best results plants should be grown in full sun. Seeds may be sown directly into the garden in May, or grown first in a seed-raising mix and then transplanted into the garden when 50–100 mm high.

Watering

While most of this plant's growing season is during the rainy winter months, additional watering towards the end of spring and in early summer will ensure optimum growth and flowering

Pruning

To achieve a multi-branched, bushy form, this species benefits from tip pruning when it is about 100 mm high.

Fertiliser

Apply slow release native blend 3–4 month fertiliser at time of planting or seed sowing.

Pests and diseases

This plant can sometimes be susceptible to stem borers which attack the young flowering stems; however, this is not common.

Miscellaneous

To maintain a display year after year one may let plants go to seed, self-sow in the garden and germinate the following May/June. (Remember to fertilise these seedlings for best results.)

One may also wait until the disc-like seeds are dry and brown, collect and store them in a paper bag in a dry environment. Re-sow the seed either directly, or in a seed-raising mix, in May.



Further Information

Gardening Advisory Service, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners.
Phone: (08) 9480 3672 or Email: garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

Pest and Diseases Information Service, Department of Agriculture and Food.
Freecall 1800 084 881 Email: info@agric.wa.gov.au or visit www.agric.wa.gov.au.