

***Chrysocephalum apiculatum* Golden Buttons**

Family: Asteraceae. A genus of eight species which used to be called *Helichrysum*. *Chryso* means golden and *cephalum* means a head, in Greek.

Grows in a wide variety of habitats in all states of Australia and is a very variable species. Apparently, this was one of the first plants collected by Captain James Cook in Botany Bay.

It is a groundcover or small shrub. The plant grows to a height of approximately 0.3 m and up to 1.5 m wide. Golden yellow flowers usually appear in summer and autumn, but can appear at other times. Flower heads cluster at the end of the short stems and attract butterflies. Grey-green leaves are very hairy which gives them a silver appearance.

Can be pruned back by two-thirds the length of the shoots during late autumn. Golden Buttons grow in semi shade but prefer full sun, are tolerant of light frosts, prefer well drained soil and are drought tolerant. They can be grown in a container.

Golden Buttons can be propagated from cuttings or seed; however cuttings seem to be more reliable. Some forms spread by suckering.



***Disphyma crassifolium* subsp. *clavellatum* Rounded Noon-flower**

Family: Aizoaceae. A genus of only one species, this subspecies is endemic to Australia. *Dis* means twice and *phyma* means tubercle in Greek, referring to part of the fruit structure.

They grow in all states of Australia except the Northern Territory.

This plant is a prostrate perennial with succulent leaves. The leaves range from green through to purple and red. The flowers appear to be daisy like, are pink or magenta and appear from October to February.

It enjoys full sun, is frost and drought tolerant, as well as being suited to saline soils.

Disphyma can be propagated from stem or leaf cuttings which root easily. The branches have nodes which can produce roots. It can also be grown from seed.



***Brachyscome multifida* (purple flower form) Cut-leaf Daisy**

Family: Asteraceae There is approximately 100 species in the *Brachyscome* genus, most being endemic to Australia.

This plant grows in Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

A hardy compact perennial herb and is a good rockery or ground cover plant.

This daisy can have mauve, purple, pink or white flowers and can flower throughout the year. They flower mostly in spring and summer and are butterfly attracting.

They should be pruned back by two-thirds the length of the shoots in early spring or mid autumn. They grow in part shade and full sun, will tolerate light frosts and prefer moist but well drained soils. These daisies can be grown in a container.

Cuttings can be taken from the stem, which strike easily.



References

- Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants (ASGA) website
- 'Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants' Elliot and Jones 1990 Volumes 2, 3, 5
- 'Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden' Rodger Elliot Lothian 1994
- 'Flora of Victoria' Vols 3 & 4 Ed. Walsh, N.G. and Entwisle, T.J. 1996 & 1999