

Dianella species

Dianella brevipedunculata

Dianella caerulea

Dianella revoluta

Dianella tasmanica

A native Australian lily found in the cool moist forests of South east Australia and Tasmania. Ranging from heights of 30cm – 1.5m, this perennial species forms clumps of stiff, dark green, strap-shaped leaves. Panicles of bright blue, star-shaped, drooping flowers are produced in the summer followed by attractive deep blue berries in the autumn.

Dianella like moist conditions with some shade and are excellent for rockeries and near water, although they can tolerate dry conditions and prefer a sunny to part shade situation in virtually any soil with little or no summer watering once established, cold hardy to around -6.5°C.

Propagation

WHEN TO SOW: This species seems to dislike germinating at higher temperatures so propagate in the Spring or Autumn and at a temperature of 17 - 18°C. Germination times can vary from 4 - 12 weeks.

Seed of this species can benefit from soaking for 24 hours in warm water, a smoke treatment or abrasion. Other literature says that some fermentation with the fruit still attached may to assist in breaking down dormancy, but we are supplying clean seed so that is only possible if you are collecting and germinating your own seed.

WHERE TO SOW: Any soil but preferably in moist conditions in sun to part shade.

SOWING: Fill small pots with moist sandy soil and compress. Sow 2 - 4 seed per pot or as by choice. Maintain mixture in a moist but not damp state. Place in a shady position considering the temperature tips above.

CULTIVATION: When large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and grow them on in a warm protected situation until 15 – 20cm and then plant out in their permanent position, in spring or early Summer after the risk of frost has passed in colder areas.