

Bulbine species

Bulbine bulbosa

Bulbine glauca

Bulbine bulbosa is also known as the Bulbine Lily. It is an herbaceous native (a plant without woody stem) and grows in native grassland and Eucalypt woodland in many parts of Australia. The Bulbine Lily flowers in spring and produces a spike that carries up to a dozen bright yellow flowers. The spikes are usually 30 cm tall. Bulbine Lilies are dependent on the weather. Reasonable rain in autumn and winter triggers a floral extravaganza in spring. Mass plantings of Bulbine bulbosa would make a stunning addition to rockeries and native cottage gardens. We have found that cultivated plants have a much longer flowering period than plants in the wild. They could be cultivated as a native substitute for exotic daffodils.

Propagation

Propagation is easy from seed without the need of pretreatment.

WHEN TO SOW – In warm areas or in a glasshouse at any time. In frost prone areas sow when danger of frost has passed.

WHERE TO SOW – Grow in full sun/part shade any soil garden or pot.

SOWING – Sow in moist sandy soil - these seeds require some pretreatment to promote germination - place 7.5 – 10cm of dry leaves on the soil to be used, set the leaves alight, remove the burnt debris, lightly scuff the soil surface. Sow seeds on top and compress lightly then cover. Keep moist and cover with clear polythene until germination in 2-5 weeks.

Transplant to individual containers when large enough to handle. Keep well watered. Pot on or plant out at 7.5 cm. Water in well and water regularly until established and then when required in dry weather. Use a light application of low phosphate organic fertiliser. Protect from slugs and snails.