

Dietes species

Dietes bicolor

Dietes grandiflora

Dietes iridoides

These are evergreen plants that multiply in the ground forming a large clump. Dietes iridoides has very delicate and beautiful white Iris type flowers on long branched stems in Spring and Summer. It grows to about 2 feet, has deepgreen strap-like foliage. The flowers are white with pale blue and yellow markings. Dietes bicolor has a very similar form and habit although the flower heads are somewhat more contained in form and are a bright yellow with rust red markings.

Dietes is a plant that lend themselves to a variety of positions in the garden, are very hardy and can take full sun but prefer dappled shade. They can be left to form a large clump or dug up and divided. This species has the added advantage that, once established, it is drought resistance. However, they do benefit and flourish when given an adequate supply of water. They can withstand quite heavy frosts.

Propagation

Although these Iris are either native to Australia or extensively naturalised they have many of the normal features of their colder climate cousins. Propagation is either by seed or by division.

Seed requires no particular pre-treatment. Sow as for any normal species of Iris in either a medium propagation mix or in place in garden. In cooler areas plant after danger of frost has passed.

Or

Place in a warm shaded place to allow germination in 3 - 5 weeks. Plant out when seedlings are large enough to handle. Water in well and water as needed until established.

Cultivation – Dietes is a plant that lends itself to a variety of positions in the garden, they are very hardy and they will grow in sun, shade or semi-shade, and will tolerate anything from clay to sand. They can be left to form a large clump or dug up and divided. This species has the added advantage that, once established, it is drought resistance and can withstand quite heavy frost. However, they do benefit and flourish when given an adequate supply of water.