

Dichopogon fimbriatus – Nodding Chocolate Lily

This delightful little plant thrives in full sun in most soils but does best in a sandy loam with a generous addition of leaf mould. It tolerates temperatures down to at least -7°C in Australian gardens but in colder areas with danger of frost care should be taken to give it protection. British experience has been that it is likely to need protection when grown outdoors apart from the southern areas of the country.

Propagation

When to Sow – In warmer areas at any time, in cooler areas where frost is a risk, sow either in the spring in a greenhouse or after the danger of frost has passed.

Pre-treatment/Pre-germination – The strike rate of seed is increased using smoke treatment. The simplest method of this treatment for small quantities of seeds is to place a small pile 5 – 7cm of dry leaves on the surface of your germinating mixture, set this alight and allow it to burn down. Remove any surface detritus and then lightly scuff the surface and proceed to plant your seed as normal. Use a pottery or other heat resistant container for smoking.

You can also use commercial smokewater products or papers.

How to Sow – In a seed bed or large pot with a sandy loam with a generous quantity of leaf mould. When they are large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots or plant out in position. In colder, frost prone areas it may be desirable to grow them on in the greenhouse or a protected position for at least their first winter. Plant them out into their permanent positions in late spring or early summer, after the last expected frosts.