

## Dierama pulcherrima – Fairy Wands

Native to South and east Africa, Fairy Wands occur in a variety of habitats, frequently associated with water, which seems fitting as they are at their loveliest reflected in a garden pool. This is a fairly low maintenance plant, their only requirement is regular watering and a sunny location.

Fairy Wands have stiff grey-green leaves which grow to a height of 75 – 100cm and typically forms a clump which may be divided as needed. The flowering stems rise in late in Spring to early Summer and produce numerous nodding, pink, purple or rarely white flowers on slender, hair-like stems. The flowering period usually lasts for a month or so. After this the developing seed pods continue as an interesting feature dangling from the wands.

### Propagation

No pre-treatment of the seeds is required.

**SOWING:** Plant the seeds in ordinary garden loam or potting mix in early spring. Cover with about an eighth of an inch of soil and keep moist. Germination usually starts in two to three weeks and continues up to four weeks.

**TRANSPLANTING:** Once the seedlings are 7.5cm tall they can be transplanted to individual pots that are at least 15cm deep. They can be planted into the garden the following spring.

**AFTERCARE:** Fairy Wands perform best in a deep, moderately rich soil, but will also grow well in poor soil. They prefer regular watering and the varieties here will also grow in damp conditions. Best growth when in full midday sun.