

Stypandra glauca – Nodding Blue Lily

A native Australian lily found in the cool moist forests of South east Australia and Tasmania. Panicles of bright blue, star-shaped, drooping flowers are produced in the Summer followed by attractive deep blue berries in the Autumn. Stypandra like moist conditions with some shade and are excellent for rockeries and near water, although they can tolerate dry conditions. Sun to part shade in virtually any soil, little or no summer watering once established, hardy to around -6°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 to 5 weeks to up to 12 weeks. Seed of this species benefits from some fermentation to assist in breaking down dormancy but this seed has already been subject to mild fermentation. No other pre-treatment is required.

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 two to four seed per pot or as by choice. Maintain mixture in a moist but not damp state and place in a shady position taking into account the temperature tips above.

CULTIVATION: Germination usually takes place within 1 - 3 months. When large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and grow them on in a warm protected situation until 18 - 20cm and then plant out in their permanent position, in spring or early summer after the risk of frost has passed in colder areas.