

Orthrosanthus species

These are evergreen plants that multiply in the ground forming a large clump. They have delicate and beautiful purple or yellow Iris type flowers on long branched stems in Spring and Summer. It grows to about 60cm, has deep green strap like foliage.

Orthrosanthus is a species that lends itself to a variety of positions in the garden - they are very rugged and can take full sun or dappled shade, but full sun is preferable to promote flowering. 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 resistant. However, they do benefit and flourish when given an adequate supply of water and are able to withstand quite heavy frosts.

Propagation

Although this Iris is native to Australia it has many of the normal features of its colder climate cousins. Propagation is either by seed or by division.

Seed requires no specific 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. If propagating in media 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.

