

Olearia - Care Guide

Caring For Olearia - Introduction

Daisy bush, New Zealand daisy bush

This is another genus of plants which have widely different uses in the garden and widely different growth habits and ultimate sizes. The Olearias have therefore been divided in this article into separate categories which may be common sense but are not necessarily botanically correct!

The things which all species of Olearia have in common is that they are all evergreen; mainly originate from New Zealand, and are grown for their daisy-like flower heads with the flowers being borne singly or in corymbs or panicles in spring or summer. They prefer to be grown outdoors in full sun in well-drained soil and will tolerate hard pruning from which they regenerate well. However not all species are suitable for growing outdoors in colder parts of the country. All can be rooted from semi-ripe new growth cuttings in summer.



Olearia zennorensis

O. macrodonta is a vigorous upright shrub which will grow to 20ft with a similar spread. It has sharply toothed, holly-like, glossy dark green leaves with silver-white felting underneath. In summer the bush or small tree is adorned with 6in corymbs of scented daisy-like white flowers.



Olearia macrodonta



Olearia macrodonta
'Minor'



Olearia macrodonta cut
back



Olearia x haastii



Olearia x haastii



Olearia x haastii



Olearia traversii



Olearia traversii



Olearia traversii
'Variegata'



Olearia traversii
'Variegata'

O. arborescens 'Moondance' is an attractive variegated species with white and yellow edges to its green leaves sometimes tinged pink. It has small daisy-like flowers in summer but is really a foliage shrub or small tree which has, so far, grown with us to 4-6ft. It needs shelter from cold winds.



Olearia arborescens
'Moondance'



Olearia arborescens
'Moondance'



Olearia nummularifolia



Olearia nummularifolia



Olearia nummularifolia



Olearia dertonii



Olearia dertonii



Olearia dertonii



Olearia solandri



Olearia solandri 'Aurea'



Olearia solandri 'Aurea'



Olearia solandri 'Aurea'



Olearia solandri 'Aurea'

O. x scilloniensis is perhaps the most popular and widely grown of all the *Olearias*. It is a dense shrub growing, over time, to about 6ft with a similar spread. It starts off as an upright small shrub and gets bushier much later. It has wavy-margined, long, pale green-grey leaves which are densely white felted underneath. It flowers in profusion in late spring with corymbs of daisy like white flower heads with yellow centres. With a little pinching out of new shoots it can be persuaded to produce further crops of newer flowers through the season.



Olearia scilloniensis



Olearia scilloniensis



Olearia scilloniensis



Olearia x scilloniensis & Pieris forrestii 'Flame of Forest'



Olearia x scilloniensis

O. phlogopappa 'Comber's Blue', the Tasmanian daisy bush, grows to a similar height eventually but is slightly less vigorous and also does well in a pot in the greenhouse. The leaves are grey green above and grey-woolly beneath. The florets are purple-blue around yellow centred flowers carried in erect panicles above the leaves. This is an Australian species.



Olearia phlogopappa 'Combers Blue'



Olearia phlogopappa 'Combers Blue'



Olearia phlogopappa 'Combers Blue'



Olearia phlogopappa 'Combers Pink'



Olearia phlogopappa 'Combers Pink'

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/MoR-rrWecVg>

Summer Propagation - Video Tip

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/9pbj1yg5Prk>

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