

Delosperma cooperi

Klipvygies/Coopers Ice Plant

Delosperma belongs to the Aizoceae family commonly known as ‘Vygies’. Deloperma cooperi are known as ‘Klipvygie’ or ‘Coopers Ice Plant’ and are indigenous to South Africa where they are mainly found in the drier parts of our country.

Delosperma cooperi is a succulent, evergreen perennial that has a creeping habit. They have small, closely branched leaves that are round and up to 5.5cm long. The glistening quality of the leaves is due to water-containing cells on their surface which catch and reflect light, hence the name “ice plant”.

Delosperma cooperi love the sun and thrive in dry and hot conditions. They are vigorous spreaders that form a dense mat approximately 10 to 15cm in height and spread to a width of 60cm. They prefer to grow in well drained soil, be aware of overwatering as this will cause them to rot.

Once they are established ,these vygies are resistant to long periods of drought, if it is very dry water well before their flowering time and you will be rewarded with a good show of blooms. The fuchsia purple flowers have many slender petals radiating from the centre and are spectacular bursts of colour in the veld. They are excellent performers and without fail ensure the same bursts of bright, purple colours are mimicked in a garden environment.Klipvygies have a long lasting flowering period from late winter extending right through spring. Once the flowers die down, they are followed by highly conspicuous fruit capsules which insects love.

Delosperma's are hardy to frost and will grow in the winter rainfall areas.

In September Deloperma cooperi is a mass of sparkling colour and this low maintenance ‘Klipvygie’ is a must for every garden. Plant them as borders, in rockeries and amongst other succulents.

Deloperma cooperi are proudly from the Eastern Cape.