

African Daisy, *Shrubby Daisybush*

The African Daisy is a fast-growing groundcover for large open spaces and on slopes. It grows in full sun, thrives with moderate watering, but takes some drought; most types of soil are acceptable, and the plant is wind-resistant. Pests and diseases are rare, which means this South African plant is ideal for low-maintenance uses. Too much fertiliser results in leggy, tender stems that grow criss-cross while extreme heat in Arriyadh can cause the plant's growth to stagnate. The foliage is spoon-shaped, bright green and some 5 cm in length. In blossom for most of the year, it is topped by scores of spectacular daisy flowers some 8 cm across. The outer ring is either white or lavender with a violet centre of fertile inflorescences. Spent flowers may be discarded to encourage the development of new buds. The plant grows 20 to 30 cm high, but spreads readily by creeping stems that become rooted wherever they touch soil. It is therefore very easy to propagate by cuttings or separating layers. African Daisies look well cascading over edges, in containers or in beddings. They suit rock gardens and like border planting alike, and since they need little attention they may be grown in both private gardens and public parks. In colder climates, they are grown annually or as pot plants, since they flower abundantly even when young. Despite its vigorous growth the plant does not escape from its designated site. In the immediate neighbourhood, slow-growing perennials or small shrubs that could be overgrown should be avoided.



**GENERAL**

Origin	: Mediterranean, sub-tropical
Vigour	: fairly fast growing
Humidity	: very arid, semi-arid, semi-humid, very humid, extremely humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, layer, cuttings
Maintenance	: moderate

**CONDITIONS**

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2000 ppm)
Hardiness	: 0°C

**SHAPE**

Type	: perennial
Height	: 0.2 m-0.3 m
Spread	: 1 m-2 m
Foliage	: evergreen

**FLOWER**

Colour	: white, lilac, dark violet
Size	: 5 cm - 8 cm
Period	: January - December

**FRUIT**

Type of fruit	: achene
Fruit size	: 0.8 cm