

Creeping Daisy

GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: normal growth rate
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid, very humid, extremely humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, cuttings
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2500 ppm)
Hardiness	: -3°C

SHAPE

Type	: perennial
Height	: 0.2 m-0.4 m
Spread	: 0.8 m-1.5 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: bright yellow
Size	: 2 cm - 3 cm
Period	: May - September

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: achene
Fruit size	: 0.4 cm

This herbaceous plant is one of the best groundcovers suitable for Arriyadh. Creeping Daisies originate from tropical America, including the islands where they became used to a degree of salinity. In hot and dry locations, established plants still show lush vitality, with dark-green leaves that are glossy on top. They are evergreen and have three lobes, which led to the specific name *trilobata*. Mats are very dense, 20 cm to 40 cm high, and spread rapidly. Areas covered will not allow any weed to peek through. Bright-yellow flowers are borne from spring to autumn. They are daisy-like and measure some 3 cm across. Seeds may be used for propagation and tip cuttings root easily in a mixture of compost and sand. Creeping Daisies tolerate poor conditions but demand well-drained soils. Occasional watering and some fertiliser every now and then will result in a healthy appearance. Maintenance is very low when the basic requirements are met. The plant performs best in full sun, while growing leggy with too much shade. It makes an ideal groundcover on slopes, and fills open ground between boulders and taller plants. Attractive arrangements are achieved in containers when the runners spill over, and the plants look well when they cascade down a wall. They are quite brittle and very sensitive to foot traffic. Frost kills the foliage and fleshy stems, but the plants recover quickly. Since the dead remnants need to be discarded, sites where plants are exposed to cold should be avoided.

