

# Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: © M. Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

## Sticky Everlasting

*Xerochrysum viscosum*

### FAST FACTS

#### Groundcover

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	50cm H x 40cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring – Autumn
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Sticky Everlasting** (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) is a small narrow-leaved plant up to 50cm high and 40cm wide. It is also sometimes known as Shiny Everlasting.

**Location:** Sticky Everlasting likes a sunny position and will tolerate dry conditions.

**Leaves:** The leaves are quite narrow so it is fairly inconspicuous when not in flower. They have a slightly sticky feel.

**Flowers:** The flowers are bright gold, glossy, crispy daisies about the size of large buttons. The flowers stay on for many months so it will add colour to a dry corner of your garden for most of the year.

**Attracts:** Like many of the native daisies, Sticky Everlasting will attract one of our largest and most colourful butterflies – the Australian Painted Lady – to your garden.

**Planting:** Sticky Everlasting is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase.

Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that. Once settled in, it actually doesn't like too much water so plant it somewhere where most plants won't survive.

**Care:** When it starts to look a bit straggly after flowering, give it a prune, taking off about two thirds of the main and side stems.

**Seed:** When you prune, you might like to leave some of the flower stems uncut until they form papery grey seeds. Either let them blow away in the breeze or collect some to grow into new plants.