

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Jenny Sedgwick

Lomandra or Mat-rush

Lomandra longifolia

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asparagaceae
	Asparagus
Size:	1m H x 70cm W
Position:	Partly shaded
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Inconspicuous
Fruits:	Spikey capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Lomandra** or **Mat-rush** (*Lomandra longifolia*) is a clumping plant that grows up to 1m high and 70cm wide.

Location: Lomandra likes part shade and will look good along the edge of a garden bed. It will also look good as a feature in a garden bed – on its own or in a clump.

Leaves: It is mostly planted for its attractive, strappy leaves which arise from a central base. The leaves are thick and leathery; the smooth edges can be quite sharp.

Flowers: The flowers are fairly small and inconspicuous. They form on a flower stalk that emerges from the base of the leaves in late spring.

Planting: It 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.

Care: Lomandra doesn't need pruning but if you do want to tidy it up (sometimes the leaves may get a bit frayed and torn), just cut it back to about ⅓ of its height.

Attracts: Lomandra is a food source for the larvae of several species of local butterfly, including the rare Yellow Ochre. It is extremely rare for the larvae to mortally damage the plant.