

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

Tree Everlasting

Ozothamnus ferrugineus

FAST FACTS

Shrub

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	2m H x 1m W
Position:	Shady
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Prune

A single-trunked shrub growing about 1m wide and 2–3m high, **Tree Everlasting** (*Ozothamnus ferrugineus*) is an Australian native plant from the Ballarat area.

Location: Plant Tree Everlasting in a shady spot. With its bare lower trunk and height, it will look better towards the back of a garden bed with smaller plants around the base.

Leaves: The leaves are a bright green, multi-sized and much longer than wide, but all the same proportions. The leaf margin is wavy and there is a slight in-rolling of the edges.

Flowers: Tree Everlasting develops large clumps of tiny creamy flowers in late spring which stay on for most of summer, looking a little like cauliflowers.

Planting: Tree Everlasting is quite tough and will grow well in your garden if planted within a few days of purchase. It likes a shady spot in a hole not much larger than the pot. Give it a good ½ bucket of water as soon as you plant it and it should be fine after that.

Care: It will look its best if given a light prune after the flowers start to look old and dull towards mid or late summer. It will then stay bushy and dense and have more flowers next year. If you prefer, you can leave it unpruned. It will then tend to grow taller, but slightly straggly.

Seed: Thousands of dry papery fruit develop from the flowers. The fluffy seed can be collected towards the end of summer when you prune.