

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Chocolate Lily

Arthropodium strictum

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Family: | Asparagaceae |
| | Asparagus |
| Size: | 30cm H |
| Position: | Lightly shaded |
| Soil: | Well drained |
| Flowers: | Spring / Summer |
| Fruits: | Papery capsules |
| Care: | Low maintenance |

Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*) is an Australian native groundcover from the Ballarat area. It's a small, narrow-leaved plant up to 30cm high. It could easily be mistaken for a grass, however the leaves are a little softer and brighter in colour.

Location: It likes a lightly shaded position and looks best when several plants are clumped together about 30cm apart.

Flowers: The flowers are very delicate and pretty with a lovely chocolaty smell. In late spring or early summer, it will send up a tall flower stem which will have dark purple flowers opening one or two at a time over the next couple of months.

Planting: Even though it looks delicate, it is quite tough. It 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: Chocolate Lily needs little care. If you want, cut off the old flower stem down low near the base after it has dried. You may still find some small black seeds in the papery cups towards the end of the stem – these could be shaken out onto the soil where they may grow into new plants.

Seed: Chocolate Lily is a very slow growing plant and won't tend to spread in your garden bed. To grow more, collect the seed and grow it in small pots. Transplant the new seedlings when they are about 10cm high.

Tip: The leaves tend to die back over winter, totally disappearing some years. The bulb will still be alive under the soil, so mark its location with a small stake.