

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph: Roger Thomas

Bulbine Lily

Bulbine bulbosa

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asphodelaceae
	Aloe
Size:	30cm H
Position:	Shady
Soil:	Moist
Flowers:	Spring
Fruits:	Papery capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

An Australian native plant from the Ballarat area, **Bulbine Lily** (*Bulbine bulbosa*) is a small plant with a few long, narrow, rounded, hollow leaves about 30cm tall.

Location: Plant it in shade in a moist spot. As it stays as a small tuft, Bulbine Lily looks best when planted in clumps of 5-10 plants about 30cm apart.

Flowers: In spring, Bulbine Lily grows a tall stem covered in large bright yellow flowers.

Planting: Like many Ballarat bush plants, Bulbine Lily 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.

Seeds: If left alone, by the end of summer the flowers will have produced lots of small black seeds. You can collect some of these to grow into new plants or let them fall around the base where some will grow into new plants. Bulbine Lily will readily spread and can be easily transplanted.

Tip: After the seeds have fallen, Bulbine Lily will tend to die back a bit over winter. The underground bulb, however, will send up new leaves and flowers again the next year. So it may be a good idea to put a small stake into the ground so that you remember where it is.