

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Photograph (above): Tony Rodd

Leek Lily

Bulbine semibarbata

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Family: | Asphodelaceae |
| | Aloe |
| Size: | 20cm H |
| Position: | Shady |
| Soil: | Moist |
| Flowers: | Spring |
| Fruits: | Papery capsules |
| Care: | Low maintenance |

An Australian native groundcover, **Leek Lily** (*Bulbine semibarbata*) is a small plant with a few long, narrow, rounded, hollow leaves about 20cm tall. Although there are a few scattered occurrences of Leek Lily around Ballarat, this plant is more widespread to the north and west of Victoria.

Location: Leek Lily likes to be planted in a bit of shade in a moist spot. It stays as a small tuft, so would look best if grown in a patch of 5-10 plants in your garden bed amongst other small plants. Plant about 20cm apart.

Flowers: In spring, it grows a flower stem covered in small bright yellow flowers.

Planting: Leek 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.

Seed: If left alone, the flowers will have produced lots of small black seeds by the end of summer. These can be collected and potted to grow into new plants or they can be left to fall where some may grow into new plants.

Tip: Leek Lily is an annual. After the seeds have fallen, it will die. Next year, however, some of the seeds will grow into new plants near the original plant. So it may be a good idea to put a small stake into the ground to remind you of the location.