

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Vanilla Lily

Arthropodium milleflorum

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asparagaceae
	Asparagus
Size:	40cm H
Position:	Sunny to light shade
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Spring / Summer
Fruits:	Papery capsules
Care:	Low maintenance

Vanilla Lily (*Arthropodium milleflorum*) is an Australian native groundcover from the Ballarat area. Its strappy silver-green leaves grow in a clump which could be mistaken for a grass, however the leaves are softer, slightly fleshy and broader than most grasses.

Location: Prefers a lightly shaded position and is showy enough to warrant a front-row spot in a garden bed. The clump will thicken over time so if planting several, spread them approximately 50cm apart.

Flowers: In late spring, tall flower stems up to a metre high, will emerge from amongst the leaves and over the next couple of months bear a succession of small, pale mauve, pendulous, vanilla-perfumed flowers.

Planting: Although it looks delicate, Vanilla Lily is quite tough. It will grow well in your garden if planted in a hole just larger than

the pot within a few days of purchase. Give it a bucket of water immediately.

Care: Cut off old flower stems near the base after they have dried. You may wish to collect some of the many small black seeds from the globular papery cups along the stems.

Seed: This is such an attractive plant you will want to grow more for your own garden or for family and friends. Collect seed from mid to late summer, sprinkle onto a pot, lightly cover with a millimetre or two of fine potting mix and keep it moist. Transplant the new seedlings when they are about 10cm high.

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