

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Billy Buttons

Craspedia variabilis

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Asteraceae
	Daisy
Size:	40cm H x 30cm W
Position:	Sunny
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Summer
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Low maintenance

Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*) is an imposing native groundcover from the forests and grasslands around Ballarat.

Location: Prefer full sun to light shade and because of their stunning, large, drumstick-like flower heads emerging high above the foliage, should be planted in an area where they can reach their full height. A narrow bed beside a driveway without overhanging foliage might be ideal.

Leaves: The low strappy, slightly hairy blue-green leaves are not particularly exciting but several plants in a row along a narrow bed form a nice small soft structural feature.

Flowers: Tall-stemmed, long-lasting, large, yellow drumstick flower heads will remain on the plant for several months if you can resist the temptation to pick and bring

them inside for a striking floral arrangement.

Planting: Plant in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Give each plant a bucket of water as soon as it's in the ground. Once settled, Billy Buttons need occasional watering but don't allow the soil to remain too wet.

Care: Tidy up Billy Buttons at the end of summer by removing old flower stems when they start to tire. Plants will remain as neat and fairly inconspicuous leaf clumps in your garden until the new flower stems emerge next year.

Seed: When pruning, leave some flower heads uncut until they turn brown as the seeds ripen. Collect the seed to grow extra plants for family and friends but also save some for other spots in your own garden.