

Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens



Kidney-weed

Dichondra repens

FAST FACTS

Groundcover

Family:	Convolvulaceae Morning Glory
Size:	10cm H x 20cm W
Position:	Sun to light shade
Soil:	Well drained
Flowers:	Inconspicuous
Fruits:	Inconspicuous
Care:	Moderate maintenance

Kidney-weed (*Dichondra repens*) is an Australian native groundcover from the Ballarat area.

Location: This charming little plant is no weed at all and does a delightful job of softening harsh edges. It looks incredible as a lawn substitute or between pavers, visually breaking up large expanses of hard surface. It prefers full sun to keep it short and compact.

Leaves: The small, round, lush, green leaves are the reason you would plant Kidney-weed as its flowers and fruit are tiny, green and inconspicuous.

Planting: Ensure no weed seed or roots are present in the soil. Spread plants at 20-30cm spacing over the entire area you wish to cover so that plants knit together quickly and form a dense mat before weeds have

a chance to establish. Plant in a hole not much larger than the pot within a few days of purchase. Water thoroughly as soon as you plant.

Care: In full sun Kidney-weed will need an occasional deep watering over the driest summer months. Remove any weed seedlings that emerge as soon as you notice them. Light foot traffic is no problem, but Kidney-weed is not tough enough for heavy traffic which is why it does particularly well between pavers along paths or on a terrace. Regularly trim edges around pavers for a formal look.

Propagation: Dig up and transplant small clumps to other parts of the garden, or use the trimmed clippings. Half bury a handful of clippings at 20-30cm spacing in the new site and keep them moist until new roots strike.