
ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH398



HARDY ICE PLANT PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Hardy Ice Plant
- Scientific name: *Delosperma cooperi*
- Native to southern Africa
- Perennial evergreen succulent
- Opposite leaves are nearly cylindrical in shape
- Plants form mats 4-6'' in height
- Magenta, daisy-like flowers bloom from late spring until first frost
- Hardy in zones 5-11

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers coarse, well drained soil with a pH range of 6.0-7.0
- Grows well in full sun to light shade

- Requires little water; does not tolerate wet feet
- Fertilize no more than once during the growing season with a dilute 200 ppm nitrogen fertilizer

PROPAGATION

- Can be propagated by seed, division, or cuttings
- Sow seeds on the surface of moist seed mix and store at 65-75°F
- Germination should occur in less than three weeks
- In the garden, space plants 16-24 inches apart to allow room for spreading

DISORDERS

- Root rot (*Pythium spp.*)
 - Leaves turn yellow
 - Provide good soil aeration and drainage
 - Remove infected plants
- Mealybugs
 - Cottony-looking insects suck fluids from stems and leaves
 - Leaves wither and yellow
 - Remove insects with a strong spray of water

CONSUMER CARE

- Performs well as ground cover or in a rock garden
- Ideal for hot, dry conditions due to drought-tolerant nature
- Can be grown in containers at least 12'' deep

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Delosperma brunnthaleri*
 - 'Yellow': yellow flowers

- *Delosperma cooperi*: magenta flowers
- *Delosperma floribundum*
 - 'Starburst': orchid-pink flowers with white centers
- *Delosperma herbeau*: white, starry flowers

References

- <http://www.plantoftheweek.org/week260.shtml>
- http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/groundcover/delosperma_cooperi.html
- http://streambankgardens.com/Delosperma_Hardy_Ice_Plant.html
- <http://www.hardyplants.com/seeds/flower/Delosperma.html>

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