

# Sphaeromorphaea australis



## Spreading Sunshine: How to Propagate the Cheerful Button Daisy (Sphaeromorphaea australis)

The Button Daisy, scientifically known as *Sphaeromorphaea australis*, is a delightful little Australian native with surprising resilience and charm. It boasts a carpet of vibrant green foliage studded with sunny yellow button-like flowers, making it a fantastic addition to rockeries, borders, or even hanging baskets. Intrigued? The good news is that propagating Button Daisies is surprisingly easy, allowing you to multiply your sunshine with minimal effort!

### Two Routes to Button Daisy Bliss: Seed vs. Cuttings

You have two primary options for welcoming more Button Daisies into your life: starting from seed or taking cuttings. Both methods have their own merits, and the best choice for you will depend on your preference and available resources.

#### 1. Sowing the Seeds of Success:

- **Timing is Key:** Spring is the ideal time to sow Button Daisy seeds. The warmer temperatures and increased daylight provide optimal conditions for germination.

- **Sowing Surface:** Choose a well-draining seed raising mix to prevent the seeds from rotting.
- **Shallow is Best:** Sprinkle the seeds on the surface of the mix and lightly press them down. Button Daisy seeds need light to germinate, so avoid burying them.
- **Moisture is Magic:** Mist the sown seeds gently with water, ensuring the soil remains moist but not waterlogged.
- **Patience, Young Padawan:** Germination can take anywhere from a few weeks to a couple of months. Keep the seed tray in a warm, bright location, and don't give up hope!

## 2. Taking the Cutting Edge:

- **Choose Wisely:** Select healthy, non-flowering stems from a mature Button Daisy plant.
- **Cut it Right:** Using a clean, sharp knife or pair of secateurs, take a cutting about 5-10cm long, cutting just below a leaf node.
- **Prepare the Cutting:** Remove the lower leaves from the cutting, leaving a few at the top.
- **Hormone Boost (Optional):** While not essential, dipping the cut end in rooting hormone powder can encourage faster root development.
- **Potting Mix Power:** Fill a small pot with a well-draining potting mix.
- **Planting the Cutting:** Make a small hole in the potting mix and gently insert the cutting, ensuring the bottom leaves are just above the soil surface.
- **Creating a Humid Haven:** To increase humidity and encourage rooting, cover the pot with a clear plastic bag or use a propagator.
- **Root Revelation:** After a few weeks, gently tug on the cutting. Resistance means roots are developing!

## Caring for Your Button Daisy Offspring:

Once your seeds have germinated or your cuttings have rooted,

it's time to give them the best start in life:

- **Gradual Transition:** If you used a propagator or plastic bag for cuttings, gradually acclimatize them to normal humidity levels before transplanting.
- **Potting Up:** Transplant seedlings or rooted cuttings into individual pots filled with a well-draining potting mix once they have developed a strong root system.
- **Sunlight Lovers:** Button Daisies thrive in full sun to part shade. Choose a location in your garden that receives at least 4-6 hours of sunlight per day.
- **Water Wisely:** While Button Daisies are relatively drought-tolerant once established, they need regular watering during their first year. Allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings.
- **Feed the Need:** A light application of slow-release fertilizer during the growing season can promote healthy growth and abundant blooms.

With a little care and attention, your propagated Button Daisies will soon reward you with their cheerful blooms, filling your garden with colour and delight! So, grab your gardening gloves and get ready to multiply your sunshine today!