

# Gold Dust™ Yellow Rice Flower (*Ozothamnus diotophyllus*)



## CULTURAL INFORMATION

### KEY FEATURES

'Gold Dust' riceflower (*Ozothamnus diotophyllus*) is a small perennial shrub with aromatic attractive fine grey-green foliage which contrasts with the bright golden yellow flowers in spring. Plants grow to about 1 m tall and around 30 cm wide. They grow best in well drained soils, survive light frosts, and require minimal watering once established.

### BACKGROUND

*Ozothamnus diotophyllus* is native to the semi-arid regions of eastern Australia. In spring it produces terminal clumps of golden yellow flowers on long straight stems. It can also flower sporadically throughout the year. Since 2003, the Centre for Native Floriculture at The University of Queensland, Gatton Campus has been selecting and breeding Australian native species, including 'Gold Dust' for their ornamental value.

### USES

'Gold Dust' makes an excellent garden or pot plant. For maximum effect, these plants are suited to planting in groups where the fine foliage and straight stems create an architectural feature year-round. The bright golden yellow flowers which form as clumps on the ends of the stems can be picked and used in flower arrangements. For floral arrangements, the stems should be picked when the buds are open.

### POSITION

'Gold Dust' plants grow in full sun and prefer well-drained soils, including sands and loams. They are drought tolerant once established and thus suit dry, exposed sites.

### CARE

Whether in pots or beds, these plants are easy to grow and require limited care beyond an occasional trim back and feed. For pots, ensure a good quality potting mix is used. For beds, cultivate the soil before planting. Dig a hole twice the width and depth of container, gently remove the plant from its container, and place the plant in the hole so that the pot soil level is the same as the surrounding ground level. Fill hole firmly and water well, even if the soil is moist. Mulching is recommended to conserve water, but should not be overdone around the stem. Remove spent flower stems to encourage new growth. Trim back hard on an annual basis and apply a standard slow release fertiliser every 4-6 months (does not need to be a 'native' type fertilizer) to encourage a new flush of growth and flowering. Left untrimmed, 'Gold Dust' has an unusual natural spreading habit of leaning-over and sending up vertical side shoots.

For additional information please visit our website: [www.aussiecolours.com.au](http://www.aussiecolours.com.au).

