

Hebe diosmifolia

The name Hebe originates from Greek mythology where Hèbè was the name of the daughter of Hera and Zeus. This beautiful maiden was cupbearer of the gods and the goddesses of Mount Olympus, captivating them with her beauty and serving them sweet nectar and ambrosia.

Hebe plants originate from New Zealand with ‘Wiri Joy’, diosmifolia, ‘Icing Sugar’ , pagei and x franciscana ‘Variegata’ being subspecies of the original plants.

Hebe diosmifolia is a rewarding little white flowered plant with a tidy habit. The white flower heads occur at the end of a stem of dark green leaves from late spring until well into summer. It is slightly smaller than the other varieties reaching approximately 30 cm in height. Hebe diosmifolia is a true “old fashioned gem” and is a must for gardener’s who enjoy using white in the garden.

Hebe diosmifolia will grow in ordinary garden soil, however adding compost when planting to improve drainage will ensure a happy plant with frequent blooms. Water well, but allow the soil to dry out before watering again.

Hebe’s are ideal for growing in areas where the summers are hot and dry. They are wind, frost and sea spray tolerant. Hebe will grow in the full sun or dappled shade but remember that fewer flowers will be produced in a dappled shade spot.

Hebe also have the added bonus of being classified as water-wise making them good contenders for South African gardens.

Hebe diosmifolia can happily be planted with other shrubs in the garden to create mixed beds. When planted en mass their contrasting dark green leaves and pure white flowers will create a stunning show .They will also do well in containers in courtyards and on patios. Why not try them as a formal low hedge around vegetable and herb gardens, they respond easily to being trimmed and will be fuss free once established!