

Ramm Botanicals Plant Information

Ptilotus exaltatus 'Joey'



Ptilotus 'Joey' is a free-flowering plant that is highlighted by spires of large, feathery flowers which appear from late spring to early summer. We treat 'Joey' as an annual, or, at best, a short-lived perennial in ideal conditions.

Being a native to Central Australia, *Ptilotus* love dry, arid conditions and 'Joey' is no exception.

The genus *Ptilotus* consists, surprisingly, of around 100 species. With rare exception, the one thing they have in common is their love of dry, arid conditions associated with Central Australia. They are typically short lived plants but loved for the gorgeous, feathery flowers that last quite well in cut-flower arrangements.

Ptilotus 'Joey' is a hybrid based on *P. exaltatus*. It offers exceptional beauty with the side benefit of heat and drought tolerance. Large, conical spikes of feathery flowers sit atop thick, silver-green foliage.

In early 2012, 'Joey' was awarded the 'Glass Tulip' award, the so-called Oscar of the European horticultural sector judged by the FloraHolland flower auction. 'Joey' won the bedding plant category.



Planting

Plant in a sunny position in well drained soil. If planting in a pot, use a quality potting mix suitable for Australian native plants. Always look for the Australian Standards mark. Joey looks great when planted en masse.

Watering

Remembering their origins, it's not surprising that too much water could be a problem. So, the most important thing is to avoid is over-watering the plant. Overhead watering, which obviously wets the flowers and foliage, may encourage unsightly fungal or algal growth. Allow plants to adequately dry out between waterings. Use of a drip line or allowing the plant to take up water from a saucer is recommended.

Fertiliser

To keep the plant at its best, use a complete and balanced native (low phosphorus) fertiliser in either liquid or granule form.

Pruning

Best treated as an annual or short lived perennial. Remove spent flower heads to encourage repeat flowering. The flowers are well suited for cut flower use and really jazz up a bouquet.

Pests and Diseases

Joey *Ptilotus* is relatively free from pests and diseases. Fungal diseases associated with over watering can be a problem. As always, if you see a problem that you can't remedy and need advice, see your specialist plant retailer for more information.



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