

Growing your Boea hygroskopica **Queensland Rock Violet - Resurrection Plant**

Boea is a beautiful native Gesneriad (The African Violet Family) from Northern Queensland. It has the unusual ability of being able to dry completely until it is only a mass of dead leaves and then come back to life once moisture levels increase. It grows only around 15cm high and forms a dense velvety clump that flowers over many weeks in the warmer months.

When your plant arrives, it is important to get it potted up as soon as possible. I would use a squat 150 mm pot. Use a quality brand potting mix, but add about 20% of coarse sand, 5 mm Scoria or similar material to improve drainage. If you can find it, the best material I have used is 'Maidenwell' brand Diatomite in the 2-7mm size. This is a fantastic material, I use it extensively in my epiphytic mixes with tremendous results. Add a teaspoon of Osmocote and water in well.

Keep your plant in bright filtered light with maybe some early morning sun. Pot on as needed or try it in the garden in a well drained but consistently moist location. The only major pests of this plant are chewing insects such as Grasshoppers and Caterpillars, these can simply be crushed or sprayed with the insecticide Carbaryl.

Best of success with your plant, do contact me if I can be of any further help.

Regards

Steve
(blanchett@westnet.com.au)