## **Born Free**

Among the great triumphs of modern plant breeding are those plants that are both small of stature and born to bloom! It's hardly surprising that Elite Cape Daisies are among the most loved perennials in the gardening world. They'll flower freely for months

Zanzibar White Canzibar Rose Bicolour

Terracotta

**E**lite Cape Daisies were bred to perform! Their species (Osteospermum) is of South African origin but these days, cape daisies are grown all over the world. In Europe, where they're most extensively bred, they've become favourites for borders, pots and planter boxes.

on end – on a plant that's neatly compact.

Available in a huge range of colours and different flower forms, the Elite hybrids grow as even domes of colour with their masses of daisy flowers sitting neatly atop a small shapely shrub, just 30–50cm tall.

The Elite's compact habit is why they're as successful in pots as they are in the garden. They also make fantastic fillers, and their colours blend well with a wide range of shrubs and perennials, particularly grasses, flaxes, succulents and leafy natives.

Elite daisies are sun loving, hardy and fast growing. They will bloom prolifically from very early spring, through summer and well into autumn. Unlike older forms, the



Copper Purple

## Easy care Elites ....

- Plant in full sun, in well-drained soil or in pots.
- ✓ Water during dry weather, during the first growing season until plants are established.
- Trim in late autumn after flowering, to onethird size.
- ✓ Feed in spring with controlled release fertiliser.
- Protect from harsh frost.

new generation of Cape daisies are well known for their tolerance of hot dry conditions. They thrive in New Zealand gardens, and like most of us, they adore the seaside. As very low maintenance perennials, all they need is a quick trim after flowering, and a light shape up after a frost has passed.

There are six fabulous colours available for autumn 2011 – from pastel 'Luena' to vivid 'Orange Terracotta', bright purple 'Maseru', and the gorgeous two-toned 'Copper-Purple'.



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**Geardening** autumn'11 23

