

Ice Plant Botanical name: *Delosperma cooperi* (del-oh-SPUR-muh koo-PER-ee)



Photo by & grown by: John Brandauer

Description: Vigorous, fast growing, but not invasive. Recommended as an alternative to invasive Ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*). We grow several varieties, in red, white, yellow, and an orange/rust color, but none perform like this one! Named for Thomas Cooper, the English botanist that explored and collected in Africa, in the 1800's. Will form dense mats.

Uses: Sunny borders, driveway edges, path delineation, green roofs, butterfly gardens

Common Name: Trailing Ice plant, Hardy Ice plant, Cooper's Hardy Ice Plant

Type: Succulent, semi evergreen in NJ

Family: Aizoaceae

Soil Preference: Almost any well drained soil; will tolerate poor, dry soil. Drought tolerant, salt spray tolerant. **Will not tolerate heavy watering, or poor drainage, especially through the winter.**

Light Requirements: Full Sun preferred, may tolerate part sun

Care: Easy, exceptionally low maintenance. Drought tolerant. A spring cut back will encourage new growth. **Deer resistant.**

Blooms: A profusion of shimmering magenta blooms. Very long bloom time, mid spring, to first frost, blooms close at night, and on overcast days.

Size: About 2-3" high, for us

Growth Rate: Fast

Native habitat: Native to South Africa

Wildlife Benefits: Attractive to bees and nectar seeking flies.

Propagation Methods: Amazingly easy to propagate by cutting. In June through July, maybe even early August, poke a hole in the soil with your finger, take a 3-4" cutting, remove leaves from the lower inch, put it in the hole, tamp, water, walk away. Come back in a few weeks for your new plant, perhaps watering once a week, if no rain has fallen.

Can be propagated from seeds sown direct, after last frost, but cuttings will provide more plant for your effort.

Information compiled from the web, supplemented by our experiences.

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