

*Dorotheanthus bellidiformis*

[Synonyms : *Cleretum bellidiformis*, *Cleretum cuneifolium*, *Cleretum limpidum*, *Dorotheanthus bellidiflorus*, *Dorotheanthus bellidiformis* subsp. *bellidiformis*, *Dorotheanthus criniflorus*, *Dorotheanthus muirii*, *Dorotheanthus oculatus* var. *oculatus*, *Dorotheanthus woodii*, *Mesembryanthemum bellidiformis*, *Mesembryanthemum criniflorum*, *Mesembryanthemum crinifolium*, *Mesembryanthemum spathulifolium*, *Micropterum cuneifolium*, *Micropterum limpidum*]

**LIVINGSTONE DAISY** is a succulent annual. Native to the South African Cape, it has small daisy-like, pink, red or orange tipped, dark-centred, white flowers.

It is also known as Blue lace flower, *Doroteablomma* (Swedish), Fig marigold, *Kosmatec* (Czech), Ice plant, *Mesembryanthemum*, and *Stor doroteablomma* (Swedish).

*Bellidiformis* is made up of the genus name *Bellis* and Latin *-formis* (shape) components meaning ‘daisy-like or like flowers in the *Bellis* genus’.

Authorities believe that the Livingstone daisy was introduced to Britain in about 1880.

Its eventual popularity as a garden plant may be attributed to the donor of the well-known golf tournament that is played annually between Europe (originally Britain on her own) and the United States, the Ryder Cup. Samuel Ryder (1859-1936), who built up his father’s Hertfordshire nursery by selling penny packets of seeds, is said to have first seen the flower in 1928 when he visited the South African Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden in Cape Town. Although it was growing there unwanted as a weed he appreciated the flower’s potential and obtained all the seed available. He then realised that he needed a suitable common name to sell it by once he got home and chose that of one of his heroes, the explorer David Livingstone.