

Sowing seed by Frank Davies

As the seed is so fine I find that a ¼ seed tray is best, you can sow it thinly. So we need a ¼ seed tray, filled ½ inch from the top with multipurpose compost put through a ¼ inch sieve (riddle), water well and place on propagator covering with a piece of glass for 24 hours to warm through.

To sow seed fold a piece of white paper in half, then open it and tip seed into the fold, now tap the paper over the seed tray. **DO NOT COVER SEED, IT IS TERMED SURFACE SOWN.** Cover with glass and a sheet of newspaper, turn the glass over at least once a day, twice if possible, this is to stop the condensation droplets rotting the seed. If compost dries out use a sprayer with lukewarm water to wet it, or put the tray into lukewarm water for about 10 minutes to soak from the bottom. You should see germination starting within 8 - 10 days. As soon as you see green dots on the compost remove the paper. When you can count the seedlings remove the glass. 4 - 6 weeks after you should be able to prick out into a large seed tray, about 50 seedlings per tray, when they have they have covered the tray, pot up into 2 ¼ or 3 ½ inch pots.

For seed sown in December / January you should see some

flower by August / September. If you have not got a propagator, seed can be sown in the same way, from May onwards on a windowsill, don't forget to shade from bright sunlight.



Seed at germination point

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