

Arenaria montana

Sandwort

Culture guide

Uses:

Matforming plants for the rock garden, extensive roof planting

Exposure:

Sun

Garden height:

6" / 15 cm

Crop time:

8-10 months

Sow time:

Green pots: January-March; Flowering pots: June-August

Sowing method:

2-3 seeds per plug, can be multiple sown directly into pots or packs

Germination:

9-14 days at temperatures of 65-68 °F (18-20 °C).
Finish plugs at 62-65 °F (18-21 °C).

Growing On:

Optimum growth at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C). Induce flowering with 8 weeks of temperatures below 50 °F (10 °C) and long days. Plants can be forced in 6-8 weeks at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C) for spring flowering.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing perennial substrate with 0-15 % clay, 0-10 % sand, 0-15 % organic parts (e.g. bark), 1-1,5 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 1-2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-9 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 6.0-7.0.

Temperature:

Grow at 15-18 °C or outdoors. In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C or outdoors. Outdoor fleece cover needed. In spring the plants start to grow for 10-11 weeks at 15-18 °C. Cold temperatures at 7-12 °C will increase cultivation time.

Fertilization:

Low fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 60-80 ppm nitrogen (at 2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Don't fertilize after mid September. In spring fertilize with 60-80 ppm nitrogen of a complete balanced fertilizer. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times. The roots are sensitive to high salt levels in substrates. Avoid high fertilizer concentrations, it is advisable to fertilize several times with low concentrations weekly.