

Ricinus communis ***Carmencita Bright Red***

Castor Oil Plant, Castor Bean

Culture guide

Uses:

Attractive solitary plant for border or container, medicinal plant, ornamental leaf plant, oil plant

Exposure:

Sun

Garden height:

59" / 150 cm

Crop time:

9-10 weeks

Sow time:

February for selling from April onwards;
March-April for selling from May onwards;
Mid-End June for selling from August onwards

Sowing method:

1-2 seeds per plug, sowing directly in final pots is recommended

Germination:

6-12 days at temperatures of 70-72 °F (21-22 °C)

Growing On:

Grow on at 58 °F (14 °C)

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 15-30 % clay, 0-10 % parts (e.g. perlite), 1,5-3 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 0-5 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-9 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.8-7.0.

Temperature:

Grow at 12-15 °C. Temperatures below 10 °C are tolerated for a short time, but the growth is inhibited. For selling it is recommended to harden the plants slowly at 10-12 °C. Ricinus does not tolerate frost.

Fertilization:

High fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 300-350 ppm nitrogen (at 0 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium levels. 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.