



Shining Colors

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Primula elatior F?

Crescendo®

- Uniform series across the whole color range
- Extremely winter hardy, Crescendo®s can be used much like a pansy in Northern climates
- Sow in July for late January flowering
- Crescendo®s can be grown under cooler temperatures, cutting production costs for the grower

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Crop time

Spring: 26 - 28 weeks

Height

10 ? / 25 cm

Exposure

Sun - Partial shade

Uses

Bedding, Landscape, Pot Plant

Culture guide

Usage

Attractive pot plants, bedding, cut flower production

Sow time

Outdoor forcing: March-May; Indoor forcing (frost free): Mai-June

Sowing method

1 seed per plug

Germination

10-14 days at 65 °F (18 °C). Avoid temperatures above 68 °F (18 °C) during germination.

Maintain relative humidity above 95 %. Sow seeds in well drained media low in nutrients with a pH between 5.8-6.2. Cover seed lightly with vermiculite. Light plug trays during Stage I.

Growing on

Transplant plugs into 4-4.5" (10-11 cm) pots containing a well-drained media with a pH range of 5.8-6.5. Grow on at 59-63 °F (15-16 °C) for 3-4 weeks. Fertilize at 100-150 ppm nitrate nitrogen

in a well-balanced mix. Maintain light levels below 3000 f.c. until fully rooted. Once established, lower temperatures to 40 °F (5 °C) or lower for 6 weeks to induce uniform flower initiation. Once buds are set, gradually increase temperatures to 50-54 °F (10-12 °C). Avoid excessive temperatures, as poorer plant and flower quality will result.

Media

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 15-30 % clay, 0-20 % parts (e.g. bark, perlite), 0,5-1,5 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 0-3 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-6 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.8-6.2.

Temperature

Grow at 10-15 °C. In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C or outdoors. Outdoor fleece cover needed. For wintering the leaf rosette should be well developed. Alternating temperatures (10-12 °C day- and 1-2 °C night temperature) for 4-6 weeks promotes considerably the flower initiation for a frost free cultivation. The plants start (from CW 45 earliest) to grow for 12-15 weeks at 10-14 °C. Avoid higher temperature, because high temperatures reduce the plant quality and the foliage will grow too much. For cut flower production in cold greenhouse set up the plants in intervals. Flowering pots can be stored in cold storage-room for 4 weeks at 0,5-2 °C.

Fertilization

Low-moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 150-200 ppm nitrogen (at 0 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer. In August use a potassium balanced fertilizer (N: K?O-ratio: 1:1,5). Take care of a good potassium supply, because potassium deficiency can be a cause for leaf necrosis. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. High levels are the cause for a too big foliage. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,025 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times. Treat nitrogen deficiency (yellow foliage) with urea foliage fertilization. The roots are sensitive to high salt levels (above 2 g/l) in substrates. Avoid high

fertilizer concentrations, it is advisable to fertilize several times with low concentrations weekly. Take care of pH value in substrate and if necessary adjust the pH value in substrate with lime or with acidic ferrous fertilizer. For outdoor cultivation nutrition losses due to rainfall have to be taken into consideration.

Stage I Starts with the radicle breaking through the testa. The roots are touching the medium. Ends with fully developed cotyledons.

Stage II Starts from fully developed cotyledons. Ends with the fully developed true leaf or true leaf pair.

Stage III Starts from the fully developed true leaf or true leaf pair and ends with 80% of the young plants being marketable.

Stage IV All young plants are ready for sale and in the process of being hardened off. This stage lasts about 7 days.

The cultural recommendations are based on results from trials conducted under Central European conditions. Different conditions in other parts of the world may lead to deviations in results achieved.

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Colors of the series