

Cultural Details: **Asarina**

Asarinas are sold staked, as annual climbers, and as hanging basket plants, producing tube-shaped flowers throughout the season. As basket plants, they can be sold on their own or mixed with other species. At the time of writing, Moles Seeds offers five Asarina varieties, of varying flower colours from white to deep violet-blue.

They are straightforward to raise.

**Programming the Crop**

Sow March-April for sales April-June.

**Propagation and Growing-on**

Sow the small seeds (2500 per gram) onto the surface of a free-draining, open, seed sowing compost, which should be thoroughly wetted with a suitable fungicide prior to sowing (to prevent damping-off diseases), and the trays allowed to drain. Sow into plug trays to prevent root disturbance or into seed trays. Cover the seeds with a thin layer of vermiculite, and cover trays with clear or milky polythene to maintain humidity, until the first seedlings are visible. Germination takes around 14 days at 18-20°C. Keep the germinating seedlings moist at all times.

When large enough to handle, the plants are ready for transfer into large cell trays, filled with a standard potting compost. Grow on at around 15 °C until they are nicely established, then pot up into 10cm pots, hanging pots or hanging baskets as required. If grown in pots, plants will require tying to a small cane for support.

**Pest and Disease**

Maintain good air movement through the crop, and water in the morning rather than the evening to keep the foliage dry and lessen attack by Botrytis. Pay good attention to glasshouse hygiene, using only fresh trays, pots, compost, water and clean bench tops to avoid damping-off diseases, and check for the presence of insect pests such as aphids, spraying accordingly.

*Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.*