

BRACHYCOME

Cultural Details: ZZ070

A seed-raised subject with daisy-like flowers in white or blue shades, for use in hanging baskets and containers. Brachy Blue can also be used as a bedding plant.

Brachycome is relatively easy to raise.

Programming the Crop

Sow February-April, for flowering plants in May and June.

Propagation and Growing-on

Sow the small seeds (5,000 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. 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, prick the plants out into large cell trays and grow on at around 15°C. Move on into mixed baskets as required, once the plants have filled the cell trays and have good root growth. For bedding plant sales, plants can be pricked out straight into the final sales container (generally a 6-pack). Choose a bright location for rapid growth.

Growth Regulators

Growth regulators can be used (according to the manufacturers' guidelines) on Begonias to ensure a compact habit where required for pack production

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. Do not over-water the crop.