

# MOLES SEEDS

## Calceolaria - Indoor Pot Plant

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ080

Our indoor Calceolaria (or Slipper Flower) is Dainty Mixed. Sown August-October for flowering in December-March. It is a compact variety for higher bench densities, and ease of transport. Mixture of red and yellow, yellow with spots, bronze and bright scarlet.

### Propagation and Growing-on

Sow the tiny seeds (46,000 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.

Seed can be mixed with a little silver sand to make even sowing easier. Cover trays with clear or milky polythene to maintain humidity, until the first seedlings are visible, but do not exclude light. Dainty is sold as pelleted seed for sowing into plug trays; this allows easier sowing and placement of the seed.

Germination takes approximately 14 days at around 15°C. Keep the germinating seedlings moist at all times.

After around five weeks, plants should be large enough to handle, and can be moved into large cell trays. Grow on at around 15-18°C, down to 10-15°C once plants are established in the cells. Calceolaria can be susceptible to overfeeding and over-watering, so use a relatively weak liquid feed programme.

After around a month, the young plants should be ready for the final container (a 12cm pot).

### 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 pests such as aphids, whitefly, spider mites and thrips, spraying accordingly. Do not over-water the crop – Iron deficiency can result, so keep on the dry side.

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

(06/19)

