

MOLES SEEDS

Calceolaria - Bedding Plant

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ085

Our hardy perennial Calceolaria (or Slipper Flower) variety is Biflora Goldcrest. It produces masses of golden yellow slipper flowers on rigid stems in July-August, and is ideal for the front of the herbaceous border. Calceolaria are reasonably hardy although can suffer in a very cold winter. Height 20cm. Sow July-August for flowering February to May. For retail sales, sell in 8-9cm pots for use in the border or rockeries.

Calceolaria Rugrosa F1 Hybrid Sunshine has masses of small bright yellow flowers with a long flowering season. Height 30cm. Sow in January or early February for retail sales in early summer. Sell in 10-12cm pots as bedding, container or basket plant.

Propagation and Growing-on

Sow the tiny seeds 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. Pelleted seed is available for Rugrosa F1 Hybrid Sunshine, for sowing into plug trays; this allows easier sowing and placement of the seed.

For Biflora Goldcrest, sow 3-4 seeds per plug at 20°C (24,000 per gram). Germination takes 2-3 weeks. Pot on after 6-8 weeks, growing on at 10-12°C.

For Sunshine sow at 10-12°C (60,000 seeds per gram). Germination takes 2-3 weeks. Raise temperature to 18°C for young seedlings, then grow on at 10°C.

Keep the germinating seedlings moist at all times (supplementary lighting rigs can be used to provide 'assimilation lighting' for more rapid growth during Winter months).

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 10cm pot) or to go into the basket/container if Rugosa.

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)

