

MOLES SEEDS

Climbing Plants from Seed

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ123

Moles Seeds offers an interesting range of flowers which can be used as climbing plants to cover walls, trellis and other garden features. They are generally sold as staked pot plants. Supports and labels are widely available for most, if not all, of these varieties. The two exceptions, to this rule, are *Topaeolum Speciosum* and *Nasturtium Tall Single Flowered* which are sown direct where they are to flower.

Asarina (Climbing Snapdragon) Joan Lorraine and Summer Snow

Annual. Sow February-March, cover lightly with vermiculite. Germinates in around four weeks at 18-20°C. Sell in staked pots for use in containers or borders. Grows rapidly, prefers a cool root run. Asarinas produce masses of antirrhinum-like flowers throughout the season.

Cobaea (Cup and Saucer Vine) Scandens White

Annual. Sow March-April directly into the pot, germinates in 14-21 days at 18-21°C. Plant up as appropriate. Sell in pots with support for climbing shoots for final use on fences and trellis. This white form has slightly longer stems but is just as vigorous as the purple flowered variety.

Eccremocarpos (Chillian Glory Flower) Scaber

Annual. Sow February-March, germinates in two weeks at 18°C, although germination is variable. Sell in 10cm pots for use on fences and trellis. Has twining tendrils that cling and showy tubular flowers predominantly in red / orange. If supported, vines can reach 3m in height.

Ipomoea (Morning Glory)

Annual or perennial. Sow March-April, germinates in one to three weeks at 20°C. Sell in 12cm pots, twining up canes, for use covering fences and trellis. Morning Call Mixed has a more compact bushy habit than other Ipomoea.

Lathyrus latifolius (Everlasting Sweet Pea)

Perennial. Sow May-June, germinates in two-three weeks at 15-18°C. An attractive climber with flowers of rose, pink and white. Easy to grow, and useful for covering fences and trellis. Flowering from June to September and dying back each winter.

Mina (Ipomoea) lobata (Spanish Flag)

Tender perennial but treat as annual. The key with this plant is warmth. Sow mid-April onwards, germinates in two-three weeks at 18-23°C. Approx 15-18 weeks sowing to flowering. Striking yellow / orange flowers and twining habit.

Passiflora (Passion Flower) Caerulea

Perennial. Sow April-May, covering with vermiculite, germinates in four weeks at 20°C. Sell in 12cm or larger pots, for end use in conservatories or in pots and borders. Has unique star-like flowers.

Rhodochiton (Purple Bell Vine)

Astrosanguineus

Annual. Sow December onwards, germinates in one-two weeks at 18°C. Prick out into small pots, then on into 9cm pots when large enough. Grow on at 12-16°C, takes about 16 weeks from sowing to flowering. Sell in 10cm or larger pots, staked. Use for covering fences and trellis. Can be used in pots and hanging baskets.

Sweet Pea

Annual. Most Sweet Peas are sold as seedlings, but it is possible to sell larger plants staked in large pots, for sale for use on a balcony, for example. For this purpose, sow March-May at an optimum germination temperature of 17-20°C, growing on at 8-10°C. Some varieties/colours develop a hard seed coat and germination can sometimes be assisted either by soaking the seed in tepid water for 12 hours, or 'nicking' the surface of the seed. For pot sales, young plants are generally pinched out when 10cm high.

Thunbergia (Black-eyed Susan)

Annual. Sow March-April, germinates in two-three weeks at 18°C. Prick out into pots and grow on at 14°C. Sowing to flowering takes 12 weeks. Sell in 12cm or larger pots, staked. Flowers from June to the first frosts, covering fences and sheds. This extremely popular climber becomes covered with flowers in a range of oranges, creams and yellows, with dark eyes.

Tropaeolum Speciosum (Scottish Flame Flower)

Perennial. Stratified seed supplied but germination still slow, taking some three months for shoots to appear. Can be sown cool throughout the year, forming a small tender tuber at the end of the first season. Twining climber with scarlet flowers. Sell in 12cm or larger pots, staked, for covering fences and trellis.

Nasturtium Tall Single flowered Mixed

Annual. Sow April-May direct where they are to flower. This variety will scramble over fences, trellis and sheds.

Tropaeolum Canariense (Canary Creeper)

Annual. Sow April-May, direct into flowering position. Approx 12 weeks from sowing to flowering. A rapid climber, it can reach a height of 4m in one season.

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

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