

Cultural Details: **Felicia**

Felicias are short-lived bedding plants for sales in flower in Spring and early Summer. They are very straightforward to produce.

Variety Selection

Moles Seeds offers two separate colours, Sky Blue and Rose, together with Spring Marchen, an attractive mixture of shades, predominantly sky blue.

Programming the Crop

Sow February to early April, for sales in May and June.

Propagation and Growing-on

Sow the seeds (800 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 the seeds into plug trays (to minimize root disturbance) at 2 seeds per station. Cover seeds with a layer of vermiculite, and cover the trays with clear or milky polythene to maintain humidity, until the first seedlings are visible. Germination takes around 7 days at 18-20°C. Keep the germinating seedlings moist at all times.

Grow at around 15°C. As soon as the plants are large enough, pot up the plugs into the final container, either a 6-pack or a 9cm pot. Grow on as before at around 15°C. Plants are ready for sale in flower after around 8-10 weeks from sowing.

Pest and Disease

This quick-growing plant is subject to few pest and disease problems. 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 and whitefly, spraying accordingly.

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