

MOLES SEEDS

Pentas

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ280

Pentas is a greenhouse grown annual suitable for production as pot and container plants for Summer Sales.

They carry clusters of starry-shaped flowers over self-branching foliage; the habit is naturally compact, and the use of growth regulators should be unnecessary.

Programming the Crop

Sow in January and February for flowering in May and June.

Propagation and Growing on

Seed is pelleted; sow into plug trays or seed trays 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 2-3 weeks at 18-20°C. Keep the germinating seedlings moist at all times, without overwatering, and grow on at 15-18°C. Supplementary assimilation early on will hasten development, but this is not essential.

When large enough, move on into large-celled trays, then after a month or so transfer to the sales container, a 9-10cm pot. Once established, grow on at 12-15°C, until ready for sale. Flowers require a temperature over 15°C to open. Do not overwater the developing plants.

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 and whitefly, spraying accordingly.

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

(06/19)

