

# MOLES SEEDS

## Perennials from seed

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ288

### What are perennials?

In general they are plants which are sown one year and flower the subsequent year and for a number of years thereafter.

Recent breeding and selection work has focused partly on breeding a compact habit which makes shipment of flowering plants easier, and partly on 'first-year flowering' perennials, which are sown Jan-Feb under heat, along with bedding plants, and provide flowering plants around July of the same year, without the need for winter cold to trigger flowering. A list of the most popular of the latter is provided at the end of this leaflet.

'Normal' perennials are generally sold in 8 or 9cm square pots as green plants with a label; sales for these small plants peak in March and April, and then they can be potted on for sales of larger plants in flower through the Summer, depending on their natural flowering season (see catalogue), starting with the earliest varieties like *Doronicum*, and finishing with the late types such as *Heleniums*.

We have been selling perennial seeds for over sixty years, and we share with you here our ideas based on our own trials and customer sales. All can be grown WITHOUT ARTIFICIAL HEAT, a consideration in this age of high fuel costs. In general perennial seed is relatively inexpensive, allowing a good range to be grown at moderate cost.

Full descriptions and detailed cultural information can be found in the catalogue.

Pictorial labels can be obtained for most if not all items from your usual label supplier.

We also offer **improved performance seed and pelleted seed** (such as *Rudbeckia Goldsturm* and *Lobelia*) – pricelist available on request.

Perennials are increasingly popular with parks departments for use in display beds. If you would like to discuss landscaping perennials, contact your Moles Seeds sales representative.

### The most popular 'standard' seed-raised perennial species - essential in any sales programme

Sow any time between April and August. The later sowings can be overwintered as small plants in plugs, allowed to go dormant, then potted up when growth restarts in Spring.

<b>Achillea</b>	Summer Pastels, Cerise Queen, Cloth of Gold, Ptarmica Pearl
<b>Aquilegia</b>	McKana's Giants or sep. colours like Tequila Sunrise, William Guinness
<b>Bergenia</b>	Cordifolia and Red Beauty
<b>Campanula</b>	Persicifolia, glomerata, pyramidalis
<b>Carnation</b>	Hardy Border Mixed
<b>Catananche</b>	Caerulea (Blue)
<b>Centaurea</b>	Perennial Cornflowers, all three do well as garden plants

<b>Chrysanthemum</b>	Maximum, also Shasta Daisy and Crazy Daisy (double type)
<b>Coreopsis</b>	Early Sunrise, Sunfire, and taller Mayfield Giants
<b>Delphinium</b>	Magic Fountains (dwarf) and Pacific Giants – mixtures and colours
<b>Digitalis</b>	(Foxglove) Foxy, and newer separate colours like Carillon (Yellow)
<b>Doronicum</b>	Little Leo – bold yellow daisies in full flower in April.
<b>Echinacea</b>	purpurea (see <i>Rudbeckia</i> )
<b>Echinops</b>	Ritro – Globe Thistle
<b>Eryngium</b>	Sea Holly - planum is the easier one to grow.
<b>Gaillardia</b>	Arizona Series, New Giant Hybrids
<b>Geum</b>	Lady Stratheden, Mrs Bradshaw, Koi
<b>Helenium</b>	Helena Mixed
<b>Heuchera</b>	All very popular, green and purple leaved types
<b>Hollyhock</b>	Summer Carnival (all are prone to rust unfortunately)
<b>Knautia</b>	Melton Pastels
<b>Kniphofia</b>	(Red Hot Poker) – Flamenco
<b>Lavender</b>	some in Herb section, some perennial. Germination can be erratic
<b>Lobelia</b>	Queen Victoria
<b>Lupin</b>	Gallery and Russells are equally popular
<b>Poppies (Papaver)</b>	Eg Garden Gnome (nudicaule) and Pizzicato etc (large-flowered)
<b>Potentilla</b>	Miss Willmott etc
<b>Primulas</b>	Denticulata, Vialli, Auricula
<b>Pulsatilla</b>	Vulgaris (Anemone) and Rubra
<b>Rudbeckia</b>	Goldsturm (Use treated seed)
<b>Salvia</b>	Superba – both Blue and Pink types
<b>Scabiosa</b>	Isaac House Hybrids and Fama, and the compact Ritz Blue
<b>Solidago</b>	Golden Rod
<b>Verbascum</b>	Either the mixture, phoeniceum hybrids, or Southern Charm
<b>Veronica</b>	All make well-behaved plants



## More unusual varieties, raise and sell as above

<b>Acanthus</b>	Mollis (Bears Britches)
<b>Agrostemma</b>	Atrosanguinea
<b>Anthemis</b>	Kelwayi
<b>Aruncus</b>	Noble Spirits
<b>Anemone</b>	Sylvestris & Pink Saucer
<b>Asphodeline</b>	Yellow Candle
<b>Astilbe</b>	Showstar
<b>Buphthalmum</b>	Sunwheel
<b>Centranthus</b>	Pink and White types (Valerian)
<b>Cephaleria</b>	Gigantea
<b>Cirsium</b>	Pink Beauty
<b>Delphinium</b>	Nudicaule Red Cap
<b>Erigeron</b>	Pink Jewel, Azure Fairy and Aurantiacus
<b>Geranium</b>	Sanguineum Vision, Pink Splash
<b>Grasses</b>	A wide selection of perennial grasses is listed
<b>Gypsophila</b>	Paniculata
<b>Heliopsis</b>	Scabra Summer Sun
<b>Hemerocallis</b>	Novelties Mixed
<b>Hosta</b>	Sieboldiana
<b>Incarvillea</b>	Delavayi
<b>Inula</b>	ensifolia
<b>Jasione</b>	perennis Blue Light
<b>Lathyrus latifolius</b>	Perennial Sweet Pea (climber)
<b>Liatrix spicata</b>	Floristan, Goblin
<b>Linaria</b>	Canon J Went
<b>Linum</b>	All the perennial varieties
<b>Lobelia</b>	Fan
<b>Lychnis</b>	chalcedonica
<b>Lysimachia</b>	punctata
<b>Lythrum</b>	Rosy Gem
<b>Malva</b>	Zebrina
<b>Monarda</b>	Panorama
<b>Nepeta</b>	mussini (Catnip), often sold with herbs, also Blue Moon and Pink Cat
<b>Oenothera</b>	(Evening Primrose) yellow and orange
<b>Perovskia</b>	Taiga
<b>Physalis</b>	Chinese Lantern
<b>Physostegia</b>	virginiana white and rose types
<b>Polemonium</b>	Jacobs Ladder
<b>Pyrethrum</b>	Robinson's mixture
<b>Primula</b>	japonica, rosea, capitata
<b>Rehmannia</b>	Jacobs Ladder
<b>Sidalcea</b>	Parygirl
<b>Stachys Lanata</b>	big silvery leaves
<b>Thalictrum</b>	aquilegifolium
<b>Tiarella</b>	Silverado

## Premium Perennials

These varieties are generally recently bred, high quality types for Summer sowing, for sales in flower the following early Summer in 2-3 litre pots

All will flower in the first year from a January- February Sowing (except Aquilegia)

<b>Aquilegia</b>	Origami, Spring Magic and Songbirds - large, showy flowers
<b>Campanula</b>	Taktion (pelleted seed) – blue and white types
<b>Digitalis</b>	Camelot and Dalmatian (pelleted seed) irresistible in Summer in flower
<b>Eryngium</b>	Blue Hobbit (compact) and Blue Glitter (Tall)
<b>Gaillardia</b>	Mesa Series and Arizona– large flowers, compact
<b>Lobelia</b>	Fan Series – for Summer sales in large pots
<b>Lupin</b>	Gallery – feature item for early Summer sales
<b>Penstemon</b>	Now a good range from seed – see catalogue

## Challenges – difficult to germinate but they sell well – generally need cold treatment (stratification), i.e. sow, and leave in cold frame over the winter

<b>Aconitum</b>	Newry Blue
<b>Alchemilla</b>	Mollis Thriller
<b>Alstroemeria</b>	Ligtu
<b>Astrantia</b>	Primadonna
<b>Cyclamen</b>	Coum and Neopolitanum
<b>Dicentra</b>	spectabilis (Bleeding Heart) pink and white types
<b>Dictamnus</b>	Fraxinella Rose and White types
<b>Dierama</b>	pulcherrimum (Angel's Fishing Rod)
<b>Dodecatheon</b>	meadia
<b>Dracocephalum</b>	rupestre
<b>Echium</b>	russicum
<b>Euphorbia</b>	polychroma
<b>Gentiana</b>	acaulis and lagodechiana
<b>Helleborus</b>	Niger and Ballard Strain mixture
<b>Hypericum</b>	Calycinum and Polyphyllum grandiflorum
<b>Lewisia</b>	Sunset
<b>Ligularia</b>	Dentata
<b>Meconopsis</b>	Baileyi – irresistible when flowering
<b>Phlox</b>	New Hybrids
<b>Primula</b>	vulgaris (Common Primrose) and candelabra
<b>Rudbeckia</b>	Goldsturm (treated seed available)
<b>Sisyrinchium</b>	Blue and Yellow flowered
<b>Tradescantia</b>	virginiana
<b>Trollius</b>	(Globe Flower)
<b>Tropaeolum</b>	speciosum (Scottish Flame Flower)
<b>Viola</b>	Freckles or Queen Charlotte

## Compact (Rockery) Perennials

Main sellers amongst the dwarf perennials. Due to compact habit, most of these can be sold in flower in a fairly small pot, or as green plants. Also excellent in mixed arrangements, patio containers etc for sales in April and May, before the main summer bedding can be put out for sale. All easy to grow. Generally Spring-flowering (End Feb-May, depending on variety). Peak sowing period June-July.

Often mixed in with the taller perennial varieties for Spring sales. Can also be offered for sale in 6-packs, or in trays of mixed pots.

<b>Alyssum</b>	Yellow (saxatile and montanum)
<b>Aquilegia</b>	Cameo – very dwarf habit, and the cheaper variety Alpina
<b>Anacyclus</b>	Garden Gnome
<b>Arabis</b>	white and pink flowered types
<b>Arenaria</b>	Montana
<b>Armeria</b>	maritima splendens (Thrift)
<b>Aster</b>	Trimix and Happy End
<b>Aubrietia</b>	Royal Series or Cascade
<b>Calceolaria</b>	Goldcrest
<b>Campanula</b>	Carpatica, Glomerata acaulis and Pusilla
<b>Cerastium</b>	Tomentosum (Snow in Summer)
<b>Cheiranthus</b>	allionii
<b>Cowslip</b>	Primula veris
<b>Dianthus</b>	(‘Pinks’) – lots of perennial types – deltoides has lots of tiny flowers, plumarius has the larger flower. Sweetness is a recent introduction
<b>Draba</b>	aizoon
<b>Erysimum</b>	perennial wallflowers
<b>Gypsophila</b>	Repens white, repens rosea and Pixie Splash
<b>Helianthemum</b>	Rock Rose
<b>Iberis</b>	Perennial Candytuft, both white and lilac pink
<b>Leontopodium alpinum</b>	Edelweiss
<b>Lewisia</b>	Sunset and Elise
<b>Linum</b>	Flavum
<b>Lobelia</b>	Kalmii Delft Blue
<b>Lychnis</b>	Alpina
<b>Myosotis</b>	(Forget-me-not) biennial, not perennial
<b>Poppy</b>	(Alpine)
<b>Polyanthus</b>	Gold Lace (germination can take a while)
<b>Primula</b>	various compact types like denticulate, viallii, rosea
<b>Pritzelago</b>	Icecube
<b>Prunella</b>	Freelander
<b>Salvia</b>	Lyrata
<b>Saponaria</b>	(Soapwort) – ocymoides (Tumbling Ted)
<b>Saxifraga</b>	Mossy Species Mixed
<b>Sedum</b>	Species Mixed, and newer types Voodoo, Spirit and Reubens
<b>Sempervivum</b>	(Houseleek) mixed
<b>Silene</b>	schafta and maritima
<b>Teucrium</b>	chamaedrys
<b>Thymus</b>	serpyllum – creeping thyme
<b>Tunica</b>	saxifraga
<b>Veronia</b>	Nestor

## Key First-Year Flowering Perennials

Germinate at 18-21°C January-February, grow on in a heated glasshouse, pot up April-May as required, sell in flower during summer. You can also raise them as normal perennials, sowing April-Aug and flowering the following year. With certain varieties, there may be a proportion of non-flowering plants – sell the following season

<b>Achillea</b>	Summer Pastels
<b>Agastache</b>	All types. Not generally winter-hardy in UK
<b>Astilbe</b>	Astary
<b>Campanula</b>	Taktion, Pearl
<b>Coreopsis</b>	Presto, Rising Sun, Early Sunrise
<b>Delphinium</b>	Summer Series (grandiflorum), Red Cap
<b>Dianthus</b>	Deldoides, Sweetness
<b>Digitalis</b>	(Foxglove)Camelot, Dalmatian
<b>Echinacea</b>	Pink and white varieties listed as Rudbeckia
<b>Eryngium</b>	Blue Glitter
<b>Gaillardia</b>	Arizona Sun and Mesa Series
<b>Gaura</b>	The Bride, Sparkle White (not generally Winter-hardy in the UK)
<b>Helenium</b>	Helena
<b>Hollyhock</b>	Summer Carnival etc
<b>Kniphofia</b>	Flamenco
<b>Lavender</b>	Check variety descriptions to select quick-flowering types
<b>Lewisia</b>	Elise
<b>Linaria</b>	Canon J. Went
<b>Lobelia</b>	Fan, Starship Vulcan
<b>Lupin</b>	Gallery Series
<b>Lychnis</b>	Molten Lava
<b>Nepeta</b>	Blue Moon and Pink Cat
<b>Oenothera</b>	Missouriensis (Macrocarpa) and Sunset Boulevard
<b>Poppy</b>	Pacino, Garden Gnome, Checkers and Champagne Bubbles
<b>Penstemon</b>	All types
<b>Perovskia</b>	Taiga
<b>Polemonium</b>	Jacobs Ladder
<b>Primula</b>	Capitata Noverna
<b>Salvia</b>	Superba Blue and Pink, Purple Volcano
<b>Scabiosa</b>	Ritz Blue, Fama, Compliment and Beaujolais Bonnets
<b>Sedum</b>	Spirit
<b>Sidalcea</b>	Partygirl
<b>Verbascum</b>	Southern Charm
<b>Verbena</b>	Bonariensis
<b>Veronica</b>	Blue Bouquet

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

(06/19)