

## PLUMBAGO

Cultural Details: ZZ297

Plumbago is a tender perennial that produces a bushy shrub with an arching habit, that makes an excellent conservatory plant.

### Cropping times

Plumbago typically takes 14-18 weeks from sowing to flowering. Plumbago will grow and flower happily under normal day lengths if sown in January but for flowering in autumn plants will need long day treatment after September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Propagation & Growing-On

Plumbago needs well drained compost with a pH of 5.8-6.2. The seeds are best grown in plug trays and covered with coarse vermiculite to help retain the moisture during germination. Germination takes 7-10 days with a temperature of 22-24°C, this ideally would be the soil temperature so using base heated benches achieves the best results.

Once seeds germinate temperatures can be lowered slightly to 21-22°C, and can be kept slightly drier which will encourage the roots to spread through the compost.

Once plugs are well established they can be potted on to containers sized from 11cm to 20cm with an air temperature of 17-26°C. The high temperature and high light levels will promote branching of the plant. Pinching will also help to create a bushier plant. Pinching can be done once or twice when growing, while this will create a better plant it will delay flowering by 2 weeks. Pinch plants once they have 15 leaves removing 5 leaves at a time. Once plants are established avoid over or under watering plants.

Plants often grow to around 6 feet tall in a sunny position. Growing in containers slows growth with plants reaching 12-18 inches.

### Common Problems

Thrips and aphids are the main pest problems for Plumbago both of which can be treated in the usual way.

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