

Cultural Details: **Wallflower**

Traditionally field grown then lifted and bunched for sale in Autumn, there is an increasing market for sowing the dwarfier varieties direct into packs and pots. Wallflowers are generally sown in Summer and flower the following Spring.

Variety Selection

Moles Seeds offers a comprehensive selection of Wallflower mixtures for bunching and sale. In addition, we have a series of separate colours popular with parks departments and estates for bedding schemes.

The recently-introduced variety Charity is sown in the Summer and flowers in its first Autumn, great for Autumn mixed containers, and pack bedding sales.

As relatives of the traditional Wallflower, Cheiranthus and Erysimum (see catalogue for descriptions) can be grown for pack/pot sales in the Spring – follow instructions below for ‘Production in Packs’.

Production: Field Grown

Direct drill the seed into rows 40-50cm apart and approximately 1cm deep, at 1.5kg/acre (3.5kg/Hectare). Sow last week in June or first week in July. If the soil is dry when the seed is sown, and remains dry for the next few weeks, then germination will be very poor. If soil moisture conditions are favourable, the seed should germinate in around 2 weeks. Thin the seedlings to around 6-8cm in the row, to allow the plants to bush out naturally. Lift the plants in Autumn and bunch up for sale.

As brassicas, Wallflowers are subject to the same range of pest and disease as cabbages, etc. For example flea beetles, aphids and caterpillars can all be a problem – spray accordingly.

Production in Packs

Sow the seeds (around 500 per gram) in June-early July into plug trays ideally to prevent root disturbance, or seedling trays. Sow onto the surface of an open seed-sowing compost and cover with vermiculite. Keep the trays moist, e.g. cover trays with clear/milky polythene after sowing, and in a shaded location. Germination takes 7-10 days at ambient temperatures (15-18 °C).

Once the seed-leaves (cotyledons) have emerged, remove the polythene cover to prevent stretching of the young seedlings. Grow on as cool as possible to encourage a stocky habit, then transfer to 6-pack or strip trays, or 8cm pots, when the young plants have filled the plug tray. Shade where possible to avoid scorching the developing

plants. Use a liquid feed programme to keep the plants green and healthy, until they are sold either in flower, or as green plants, with a colour label. Keep good air movement around the plants to avoid problems with Mildew.

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