

## Canna species

### Propagation

**PRE-TREATMENT** – Seeds need scarification prior to sowing due to the hard seed coat.

There are two methods of scarification that can be used

- Scarify seed by gently abrading with light sandpaper or a rasp until the white endosperm becomes visible – do not scarify too deeply otherwise it will kill the seeds or
- Boil water and soak the seeds for 24 hours prior to sowing.

**SOWING** – Best propagated in Spring or Autumn, the optimum temperature for germination is 21 - 26°C.

It is best to start the processes 1 – 2 months before planting outdoors.

Use a good quality seed raising mix with good water holding properties by adding peat or using jiffy pots.

Use individual pots and fill with seed raising media mix and moisten.

Drain seeds and poke 1cm deep holes in the centre of the pots, place one seed into each pot and cover with media.

Water in gently with a mist spray and place pots in a lightly shaded position.

To maintain the constant temperature required for germination a heating pad can be used or place a plastic bag over the pots to increase soil temperature.

Keep moist and don't allow to dry out.

Seeds should start sprouting in 2 – 4 weeks but can take longer depending on conditions.

**CULTIVATION** – When seedlings reach 15cm transfer into larger pots.

Plant into the garden when the danger of frost has passed.

Keep well watered until established and then watering can be reduced.

