

Calytrix species

Calytrix flavescens – Summer Starflower

Calytrix tetragona – White Fringe Myrtle

Calytrix species can be hard to propagate by seed but not impossible, however low germination results are to be expected.

Pre-treatment – The most effective treatment tested for *Calytrix tetragona* was dry heat and smoke water. These species appeared to respond to the fire cues heat and smoke, but in some cases there was an increase in germination when used in combination with Gibberellic Acid. The germination response to chemicals in smoke can be dependent on the seed dormancy status, which may be affected by a variety of environmental signals (Baker et al, 2005).

Sowing – Remove the calyx and awns and allow seeds to drop into the propagation mix, if seeds are dropped allowed to self drill, results will improve. The top of the seed should be level with the soil.

Use a media of 1/3 propagation mix and 2/3 perlite or washed river sand.

Water the seed tray/punnet by either lowering into water until its level with the top of the tray/punnet, these can then be placed into a capillary bed, or mist lightly so seeds are not dislodged from the soil and placed in a greenhouse or in a warm shaded or semi shaded position and avoid drying out, keeping moist but not wet.

Air movement is very important as *Calytrix* seedlings are prone to fungal attack so be sure to allow this where you place your trays.

Optimum germination temperatures are 22 - 25°C.

Germination between species can be variable, some germinating after 6 weeks and some can take up to 12 months so don't be too hasty to throw away seedling trays if they haven't germinated!