

Cananga odorata – Ylang Ylang

Ylang Ylang is a tropical to subtropical species that is at its best from sea level to heights of up to 1000m with high rainfall and a mean annual temperature from 21 to 27°C. It grows well on light, well drained soils with an acidic pH, preferring rich volcanic or fertile sandy soils. Because of the long taproot, deep soils are required. Waterlogging for prolonged periods, but not permanent marshy conditions are tolerated, saline and alkaline soils should be avoided.

Propagation

PRE-TREATMENT – Soak seed overnight in initially very hot water. Scarification, the thinning of the seed wall by rubbing seed with light sandpaper between finger and thumb can also be used.

SOWING – Sow seed to a depth of 1 to 2cm in a standard light, well-draining potting mix. Maintain the media in a lightly moist condition and place in a warm, dry position in light shade. Seedlings quickly develop a long tap root so a deep tube or pot is required.

PLANTING OUT – Grow seedlings on until 20 to 30cm minimum and then plant out. Take care not to damage the long tap root.

