

Belamcanda chinensis – Leopard Lily

A delightful lily that can light up your garden with its orange or pink speckled blooms. A clump forming perennial with sword-like leaves to 75cm it bears striking speckled flowers, deep pink to ruby red or a bright orange, with darker prominent markings.

It likes a warm humid position in full sun in the garden or perhaps as a large tub plant with well-drained humus rich soil. It will take light frost. Keep moist in dry weather and prune after flowering for lush new growth next season.

Propagation

Seed can benefit by pre-chilling the seed in the refrigerator for seven days at about 5°C. A temperature from 20 to 30°C is required and germination should be faster at the high end of this range.

Sow in a good quality well-draining potting mix. Press the seed into the surface of the medium lightly so that it is just covered. Maintain the medium in a moist but no damp condition. Germination within 14 to 60 days.

Prick seedlings out into individual tubes after the second leaf stage and grow on. Plant out in their permanent position in the spring after the danger of frost has passed.

Protect young seedlings from slugs and snails.

