

Lilium martagon – Turk's Cap

Seed – delayed hypogeal germination.

Stored seed will require a warm/cold/warm cycle of stratification, each period being about 2 months long. Place the seed in a lightly moist mixture of 50/50 milled peat and clean sand in a sealed ziplock plastic bag. Place in a warm position out of direct sunlight for 2 months, making sure to maintain the medium in a lightly moist state.

Then cold stratify for 2 months by placing the bag in the crisper section of your refrigerator for 2 months, again maintaining the medium in a lightly moist state. Then repeat the warm stratification for a further 2 months.

After stratification sow seed in seedling tray or pot. Cover only lightly and maintain the medium once again in a lightly moist state. Grow on in cool shady conditions. Great care should be taken in pricking out the young seedlings, many people leave them in the seed pot until they die down at the end of their second years growth.

This necessitates sowing the seed thinly and using a reasonably fertile sowing medium. The plants will also require regular feeding when in growth. Divide the young bulbs when they are dormant, putting 2 - 3 in each pot and grow them on for at least another year before planting them out into their permanent positions when the plants are dormant.

