

Calceolaria species

These delightful little plants thrive in full sun in most soils but do best in a loam with a generous addition of leaf mould and a pH of 5.7 to 6.5. They tolerate temperatures down to about -7°C in Australian gardens but in colder areas with danger of frost care should be taken to give it protection.

Sow seeds directly on the media surface in a plug tray in a finely ground germination mix and cover lightly.

Make sure seed tray is exposed to some light during germination. Germinate seed with media temperature of 20°C.

Germination typically occurs in 8-10 days.

Transplant seedlings from the plug tray after 3- 4 weeks when seedlings are large enough to handle.

Seedlings should be wintered in a greenhouse with a night temperature of not less than 5°C, occupying a shelf near the light.

Pot on as required using a medium of three parts good loam, one-part leaf-mould and one part thoroughly degraded manure and 15% coarse sand. Plants need plenty of light and good air circulation but should not be subjected to draughts.

