

Dombeya species

Dombeya, commonly known as Wild Pear is a beautiful shrub or small tree ideal for the wooded or semi-shaded areas of your garden. They occur naturally in South Africa and are very showy ornamentals that produce copious bunches of lightly scented flowers.

It is fast growing under garden conditions and can be planted out in full sun to light shade. They are best in a good fertile loam with an assured Summer water supply and are tolerant of light frost down to perhaps -2°C.

Dombeya can be grown as a potted plant in a large container for a number of years but perform better in the ground in the long term.

Propagation

Dombeya are easily raised from seed. Seed does not require any pre-treatment other than soaking the seed overnight.

Seed – Sow in a seedling tray with a mixture of one part of river sand to two-parts of potting or propagation mix. Keep moist but not wet. Place in a warm, shady area and water as necessary. Use a large rosed watering can to avoid seed disturbance. Germination is usually fairly rapid but can be up to four weeks in cooler areas. In colder areas sow where possible in a warm greenhouse.

Prick out the seedlings into individual pots when they are large enough to handle. Keep them moist and in a warm sunny place with as much protection from frost and cold as possible until established. Plant out in accordance with the comments below for each of the respective species.