

Brugmansia species

The five species of Brugmansia formerly were included in the genus Datura, which now includes only the angel trumpets that are annuals or short-lived perennials; herbaceous as opposed to woody; and have erect rather than pendent flowers. Propagation of each of the individual species is the same.

Seed can be propagated in either a well-draining seedling medium or in soil-less medium such as jiffy pots or Rockwool. Selection of a growing medium is a matter of personal choice.

Brugmansia seed come with a corky outer layer to the seed. They can be propagated successfully either with the corky layer intact or removed. To remove the corky layer, soak the seed in initially warm water for 24 hours and then peel off the corky coat.

Sow seed to a depth equal to the narrowest part of the seed. Maintain the growing medium in a lightly moist state and place your seedling tray in a warm place out of direct sunlight. Optimum germination temperature is an ambient day-time temperature of 20°C. Germination can be expected in 5 to 8 weeks.

Pot young seedlings on into individual containers after they obtain their second true leaf. Use a similar growing medium.

Brugmansia seedlings can be prone to damping off. This can be avoided or minimised by maintaining the medium in only a lightly moist state and by ensuring that your young seedlings have a good airflow around them (ie do not over-water or crowd your seedlings).

Grow on and pot on as required. Light half strength fertiliser can be applied to seedlings after say 6 weeks, gradually increasing the strength to full strength over a couple of months.

Brugmansia can be happily maintained as pot plants or sited in the garden. In the colder zones most Brugmansia can withstand full sun all day long except for ones in the Sanguinea family which benefit from afternoon shade. In the warmer zones it is best to put them where they will receive morning sun and afternoon shade. Brugmansia require a large amount of water, however they do not like their roots in waterlogged soil.