

Growing Alstroemeria From Seeds

1. Fill 3in (8cm) pots with a moist, soil-less potting compost.
2. Sow about three seeds ¼in (5mm) deep in each.
3. Wrap the pots in polythene to retain moisture.
4. Place sowings in a temperature of 70F(21C).
5. After three weeks move to the main compartment of a refrigerator, which will be at about 40F, for three weeks.
6. Return to warmth at approximately 70F (21C).
7. Germination will commence in a further 10 to 14 days.
8. Fill 3in (8cm) pots with a moist, soil-less potting compost.

Be sure to keep the compost moist but not saturated during the germination period otherwise the seeds will rot. Remove the polythene when the first seedlings are seen. Once they have grown into strong plants, acclimatize them to outdoor conditions and plant out directly from the original pots.

Make no attempt to separate the plants. Alstroemerias do not like having their roots disturbed and it is advisable to plant by the potful, 6in (15cm) deep and 12in (30cm) apart. Choose a sheltered position where the soil is well drained. Alternatively you may overwinter your plants in a frost free greenhouse and plant the roots 6in. (15cm) deep the following spring.