

Primrose and Polyanthus

Plant type: Hardy and tender perennials

Uses: Pot plant, container and bedding plant

Plant height: Primrose: 13 – 15cm
Polyanthus: 20 – 30cm

Varieties requiring frost protection:

Early season	<u>Primrose</u> Bonneli Moonstone	<u>Polyanthus</u> Piano
2 nd Early season	Fruelo Cottage Cream Optic Mix Primlet™	Elpiro
Main Season	Alaska Scentsation Sweet 16 Antique Sweetheart Kudos Delia Cupid Amore Emotions Envy Cherish Fantasy Romance Passion Splash Marietta	Showstopper Stella Victoriana Crescendo®
Late season	Husky Belarina Springtime Wanda XP	

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Culture Information

Outdoor varieties suitable for Autumn planting:

Primrose

Husky
Wanda XP

Polyanthus

Crescendo®
Stella
Victoriana Gold Lace

Sowing:

Main sowing period May – July. 18°C.
Polyanthus: Cover with thin layer of fine vermiculite
Primrose: Cover with average layer of medium vermiculite
Radicle emergence 7 - 10 days.
Maintain 18°C until cotyledons open.

Approximate crop timing (mid-season):

Timing from seed sowing or young plant transplanting to flowering is controlled by variety. Under good production conditions the flowering time of Polyanthus and Primrose varieties is mainly controlled by the genetics of the variety concerned rather than by the length of time the plants have been in production. The following guide gives an overall summary of when flowering (cropping time) could be expected.

Production from seed:

Most seed sowing is done weeks 23 – 28 though earlier sowings are used particularly by parks and landscapers to develop a substantial plant ready for October outdoor planting.

Later sowings may not provide time for a plant to grow large enough to initiate flower buds when the temperature drops in late Summer/Autumn, resulting in blindness especially in late flowering varieties.

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Purchased as Ball 230 and 350 plugs

Approximate flowering times from end of October through to March.

Indoor varieties

Variety	Available Delivery Weeks	Optimum Delivery Weeks	Flowering/selling time
Bonnelli	28-38	32-36	Mid September – January
	(weeks 28-32 = Autumn to Christmas, Weeks 34-38 = January sales)		
Moonstone	30-34	30-34	Mid September – January
Fruelo	34-38	36-38	January – mid February
Cottage Cream	34-38	36-38	January – mid February
Optic	34-38	36-38	Mid January – mid February
Primlet™	32-38	34-38	Mid January – February
Scentsation	36-38	36-38	Mid January – February
Sweet 16	34-38	34-38	Mid January – mid February
Antique, Sweetheart	34-38	36-38	End January – mid February
Alaska	34-39	36	End January – end February
Delia	34-38	36-38	End January – end February
Kudos, Cupid, Amore, Envy, Fantasy, Romance, Passion, Emotions	36-38	36-38	End January – end February
Cherish	36-38	36-38	February
Splash	34-38	34-38	February – early March
Marietta	36-38	36-38	February – early March
Springtime	36-38	36-38	End march – early April
Polyanthus Piano	28-38	38	October – mid February
Polyanthus Showstopper	36-38	36-38	Mid January – end February
Polyanthus Elpiro	36-38	36-38	Mid January – early March

Hardy/Outdoor varieties

Variety	Available Delivery Weeks	Optimum Delivery Weeks	Flowering/selling time
Belarina™ (Vegetative)	32-36	32-36	February – April colour
Husky	28-39	30-36	Sell green in October. Colour sales mid February to end March
Wanda XP	35-39	36	Sell green in October. Colour sales mid Jan to end February
Polyanthus Stella	32-38	32-36	Sell green in October/November. Colour sales mid January to end February
Polyanthus Victoriana	32-38	32-36	End January – early March colour
Polyanthus Crescendo®	28-39	30-36	Sell green in October/November. Colour sales in February

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Growing on:

Temperature	After young plant establishment 5 – 10°C. Frost protection below 3°C. Temperatures of 13°C and above will almost certainly result in undesirable stem elongation in Polyanthus varieties.
pH	5.5 - 6.0. High pH can cause chlorosis as iron becomes unavailable. Iron sequestrene can help.
Feeding	The crop requires LOW feeding levels using a non-ammonium based feed. Plant roots are sensitive to high salt levels.
Growth regulation	The economics of the crop do not usually warrant chemical growth regulation. The best growth regulation is cultural: low temperature and maintaining a dry regime through the Winter months, particularly when light levels are poor.
Pack/Pot size	9/10.5 - 13cm pot or six packs for outdoor varieties. See catalogue for specific recommendations.
Planting out spacing	20cm
Advice	The young plants should be shaded in bright sunlight. The crop can be grown outdoors until Autumn frosts begin. It is essential to space the plants well and provide good ventilation.
Common concerns:	Late sowing of the late season varieties can lead to blindness. High temperatures or low light levels can lead to Polyanthus stems in Primroses and high temperatures broken by a short cold period in August or early September can promote premature flowering.
Common Diseases	Botrytis - Grey Mould, and Ramularia – leaf spot, can affect plants in high humidity, poor ventilated conditions.
Common Pests	Monitor the crop for Leafhopper, Caterpillar, leaf-hopper, Aphids, Two Spotted Spider Mite and Whitefly.

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