

Primula Balerina™

Masses of large (4-5cm) fully double flowers held upright on stiff stems
Compact – less leafy than old varieties with 4 week shorter crop time
Fully Hardy
Extra-long flowering time in the garden up to mid-May
Ideal in 1 – 2 litre pots for February to April colour
Suitable for Easter, Valentine's and Mother's Day promotions
Height 18cm, Spread 30cm

Media:

- Use a peat based growing media with good aeration, drainage and water retention.
- A pH of 5.0– 5.5 is optimum for Primula growth.
- High pH can cause chlorosis as iron becomes unavailable. Iron sequestrene can help.

Temperature:

- Optimum growing temperature for the ballerina series is between 4-12°C. Temperatures of 13°C and above will almost certainly result in undesirable vegetative growth.

Pot size:

- 11cm – 1 litre pots. Most popular size is 1 - 2 litre.
- Up to 2 litre pots for Perennial sales.
- Plant 84 plugs slightly above the soil line of the pot, this will reduce problems with botrytis.

Crop time:

Flowering plants in about 20– 24 weeks from a Ball 84 plug (over wintered)

Watering:

- Keep growing media moderately moist, allowing to dry between waterings.
- Plants should not be allowed to wilt at any time.

- It is best practice to not allow the crop become too wet as this will result in the spread of water borne diseases and pathogens.

Fertilizer:

- Foliar applications of Fe can be sprayed onto the crop if plants are show signs of deficiency. Toxicity often leads to associated manganese accumulation.
- The crop requires LOW feeding levels using a non-ammonium based feed. Plant roots are sensitive to high salt levels
- Primulas require a low EC to provide good growth.

Controlling growth:

- The Belarina™ series does not require any PGR treatments. The best growth regulation is low temperature and maintaining a dry regime through the Winter months, particularly when light levels are poor.

Common Problems:

Insects:

Thrips, Whitefly, Aphids, Leaf Hoppers, Shore and Scarid flies.

Diseases:

Primulas are very susceptible to Botrytis, Ramularia. Other diseases they suffer from include: Pythium, Phytophthora and bacterial Leaf spots. It is important to have good air circulation for cold crops.

All Belarina™ cuttings are derived from a culture and virus-indexed stock programme.

Note: 'Rosette' varieties have flowers framed with green

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.