

Helichrysum Monstrosum Mix

Sowing: Early to late spring

Seeds may be sown indoors 4 to 6 weeks before it is time to set them into the garden or can be sown directly where they are to grow once all danger of frost has passed. The seeds require light for germination, so they should be sown on the surface and not be covered. They will germinate in 7 to 10 days at 18 to 26°C (65 to 75°F). Choose a position with a well-drained soil that is moist. They should be exposed to the sun half the day or more. They will tolerate drought and do well in dry, infertile soils. Plant 25 to 38cm (10 to 15in) apart.

Sowing Indoors:

Fill individual pots or trays with well draining seed compost. (John Innes or similar). Moisten by standing the container in water, then drain. Sow the seeds thinly on the surface of the compost, pressing lightly into the compost to secure them. Keep the compost moist by watering from the base of the container, never directly on top of the seeds. Once seedlings have their first true leaves, prick out and transplant to individual 7.5cm (3in) pots to grow on. Gradually acclimatise to outdoor conditions for 10 to 15 days before planting out, 1 to 2 weeks after the last expected frosts. Space 25 to 38cm (10 to 15in) apart.

Sowing Direct: Prepare the ground well and rake to a fine tilth. Add a complete fertiliser or mix in plenty of compost prior to planting. If sowing more than one annual in the same bed, mark the sowing areas with a ring of sand and label. Sow seeds finely onto the surface of the soil as the plants need ample room to grow. Press the seeds in lightly with your hand and water using a fine spray attachment. Keep soil moist during germination. The seedlings will appear in rows and can be easily told from other seedlings. Thin them out as necessary so they are finally 25 to 38cm (10 to 15in) apart. Carefully replant thinned seedlings elsewhere in the garden.