

seedling instructions

Autumn 2018



sarahraven.com



Front cover: Viola x wittrockiana
'Mystique Peach Shades' F1

Here are the instructions you will need for planting and caring for your seedlings and young plants.

For more information and to watch my videos, please visit our website.

Happy gardening,

Sarah

Seedlings

Our seedlings are best potted on into a small pot (9 or 10cm) before planting into their final position. Young plants can be planted straight out provided the ground isn't frozen or waterlogged. Prepare your chosen spot well. Forking over and raking the soil to create a fine tilth and adding plenty of organic matter (garden compost or well-rotted manure). Dig planting holes deep and wide enough so that the roots are covered, sprinkle mycorrhizal fungi (see our website) into the base of the hole and make sure you firm down the soil down around the plant. Water regularly until established.

Anthriscus

Soil and site Well-drained soil in full sun, partial shade. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Cut off flower stalks to prolong foliage vigour and reduce possible over self-seeding. Protect from slugs and snails. **Division** Doesn't normally require it. **Notes** Choose only the darkest purple plants to self-seed, plants without the distinctive colour will not mature true to the cultivar. ☼ May-July. H.1m S.30cm

Aubrietia

Soil and site Full sun in dry or moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 40cm apart. **Instructions** Plant in gritty soil and allow to trail over rocks and walls. **Special instructions** Plant the plug slightly proud of the soil surface. **Notes** Treat as an alpine, free-draining soil is a must. **Division** Propagate from cuttings. ☼ April-May. H.10cm S.40cm

Dianthus barbatus BIENNIAL

Soil and site Well-drained soil in sunny position, best on a neutral to alkaline soil. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart. **Instructions** Keep as moist as possible, although they do tolerate dry weather. Deadhead to prolong flowering and cut back hard after blooming has ended. ☼ June-August. H.45cm S.30cm



Dianthus barbatus 'Sweet Pink Magic' F1

Digitalis BIENNIAL *Toxic if ingested*

Soil and site Best in acidic, humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil in semi-shaded area (but will grow in most conditions – height may be affected).

Spacing Plant 60cm apart. **Instructions** Allow good spacing between plants to aid air circulation and help prevent mildew. **Division** Not applicable – sow or plant new every year. ☼ May-July. H.50cm S.40cm

Erysimum (Wallflowers) BIENNIAL

Soil and site Rich, moist but well-drained soil in sunny position. **Spacing** Plant 30cm apart.

Instructions Mulch well in summer to prevent water loss. Deadhead to prolong flowering. **Division** Propagate from cuttings. ☼ March-May or longer for perennial varieties. H.60cm S.30cm

Lamprocapnos

Soil and site Part shade or shade, fertile, moist but well-drained soil. Neutral to slightly alkaline.

Spacing Plant 1m apart. **Instructions** No pruning required.

Division Lift and divide large clumps in late autumn when the leaves have died down. ☼ April-August. H.60cm S.1m

Papaver nudicaule BIENNIAL

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 20cm apart.

Instructions Grow on outside to ensure cool period for flowering the following year. ☼ June-September. H.45cm S.20cm

Polyanthus and Primulas

Soil and site Grow these in pots or plant them in the garden in light shade and good drainage. **Spacing**

Plant 25cm apart. **Instructions** Protect from rain in the winter and full sun in the summer. Re-pot after flowering into new well-drained gritty compost – four parts loam-based John Innes No. 2, two parts leaf mould, and one part grit. Top the pots off with grit.

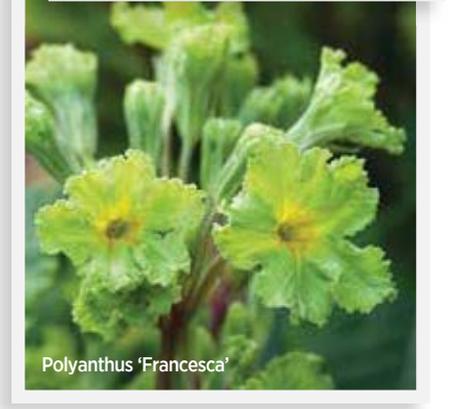
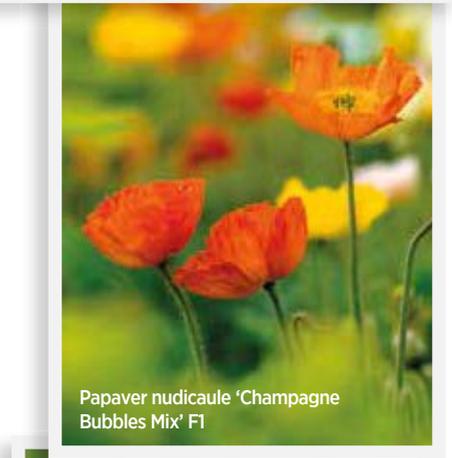
Division Every 2-3 years.

☼ April-June. H.30cm S.25cm

Viola

Soil and site Full sun or partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 15cm apart.

Instructions Keep deadheading and feed with a general liquid fertiliser. **Division** If necessary every 2-3 years. ☼ December-April. H.15cm S.15cm



Indoor plants

Asparagus densiflorus 'Sprengeri'

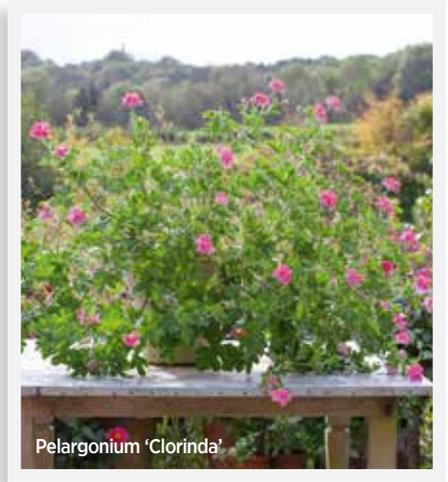
Soil and site Part shade in humus rich soil. Temperature 16-21° C. **Instructions** Moist, humid air, suited to bathroom with indirect light conditions. Alternatively mist regularly in a terrarium. H.45cm S.45cm

Geranium maderense

Soil and site Full sun or part-shade in well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant 50-80cm apart. **Instructions** May be grown in pots under glass, use John Innes No.3 compost (loam-based) with added sharp sand in bright filtered light. Tidy by removing older lower leaves. **Special requirements** Protect from frosts. ❁ March-August H.1.2m S.50-80cm

Pelargonium *Contact with foliage may cause skin irritation*

Soil and site Keep your pelargoniums in a light, frost-free position over the winter, a bright windowsill, conservatory or greenhouse with good ventilation is ideal. **Instructions** Re-pot your seedlings into 10cm pots using loam-less compost or John Innes No 2. Very little water is needed until growth resumes in spring. Pot on into 2 litre pots, harden off and place outside in their final container or in the border (in fertile, neutral to alkaline soil in a sheltered, sunny spot) once all risk of frost has passed. Water sparingly every two to three days during their active growing season. Feed with a potash-rich liquid feed, such as comfrey juice, every fortnight. **Special requirements** Deadhead regularly. **Division** Cuttings may be taken when plants begin to shoot in spring. ❁ June-November. H.25-45cm S 20cm.



Oxalis

Soil and site Part shade in moist but well-drained soil. **Spacing** Plant your plugs in groups to quickly develop a mass of foliage. **Instructions** Ideally soak the soil and then allow the top inch or so to dry out before watering again. ❁ June-July. H.20cm S.30cm

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For more growing advice, Sarah's videos and gardening articles visit our website:

sarahraven.com