

Summergrowers (Ledebouria, Drimiopsis, Resnova and some Drimia):

*When to plant* -- Plant your seeds when you receive them for best results.

*Getting started* -- Soak the seeds in a cup of water for about 8 to 12 hours (not more than 24 hours).

You may either plant them in individual containers, or together in a communal pot, separating them after a few months. Either way, use containers at least 2.5 inches (6 cm) tall, with drainage holes.

Fill each pot with a well-draining soil mix, such as 2 parts potting soil to 1 part perlite or coarse sand. An alternate mix is equal parts of coir fiber and perlite, with some slow-release potting soil mixed in.

Water the soil until evenly moist (but not soggy), and place the seeds about 1.5 inches (4 cm) from each other and the sides of the pot. Cover with 1/8 to 1/4 inches (3-6 mm) of soil and water this layer.

Until the seeds sprout, ensure that the soil surface doesn't dry out. An easy way to maintain moisture is to enclose the pots in a clear plastic dome or bag. Just leave it open a crack for fresh air to enter. You may need to drip some water on the soil every day or 2 to keep it moist.

Until they sprout, aim to keep them between about 65 and 75 degrees F (18-23°C) during the day (a little cooler at night is ok). I suggest keeping them below 80 degrees F (27°C). I recommend placing a minimum/maximum thermometer near the pots, especially if using a heat mat. Keep the pots in a bright spot out of direct sun. A fluorescent bulb kept 4 inches (10 cm) away provides the right amount of light.

Most of the seeds should sprout within 4 to 6 weeks, but allow up to 3 months for any slow ones.

Once they sprout, give them bright light, but shade them from strong sun exposure. It's best to wait until they have at least 2 leaves before transplanting them to larger containers. Transplant gently to avoid damaging the roots. After they are 2-3 months old you may slowly acclimate them to a wider temperature range.

The first year, feed about every 3 months with a slow-release (pelleted or organic) fertilizer that contains micronutrients. In the second year, feed about every 2 months.