



ALLIUM christophii


(albopilosum)

Star of Persia, Downy Onion

Item No.: AA202

Portion Price (sufficient for 50-100 plants)	1g Price (0.1-9.9g)	10g Price (10-99.9g)	100g Price (100-999.9g)	1000g Price (1000-9999.9g)	10000g Price (10000-99999.9g)
2,80€	2,80€	22,00€	-	-	-

Plant Description

Life Cycle	Perennial
Family	Alliaceae
Origin	Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey
Distinction	Award of Garden Merit (A.G.M.) from the Royal Horticultural Society.
Special Features	Intriguing 20-25 cm spheres consisting of innumerable of star shaped, lilac-colored flowers. Fantastic dried flowers.
Basic Colour	(violet)
Flower Colour	lilac
Natural Flowering Period	June - July
Winter Hardiness Zones	Z6 - Z10
Foliage	grey-green, linear, slightly hirsute underneath
Growth Habit	bulbous
Height with Flowers	40 cm
Spacing between Plants	45 cm
Soil Requirements	dry / sandy / gritty / well-drained / average / loamy
Location	
Characteristics	decorative fruit
Usage	honey-bee food plant / for the rock garden / suitable for cutting

Cultivation

Grams per 1000 seeds	5.88235 Gram
Seeds per Gram	170 (does not correspond to the number of plants!)
Gram to get 1000 plants	20 Gram (if sown directly into pots etc. you will need a larger quantity)



Sowing Rates/Trays	6 per cell
Plug tray recommended size(s)	open flats / 72
Sowing Direction	(1) Cold-germinators are still referred to as frost-germinators, although this isn't quite correct. The sowing must be kept warm (about +18 to +22°C) [about 64 to 72°F] and moist for the first 2–4 weeks. After this period the sowing must be kept at a cold temperature (between –4 and +4°C) [between 25 and 39°F] for another 4–6 weeks. Colder temperatures of –5°C [23°F] are only advantageous for most species of the Ranunculus family. It is not so important if the temperature is higher or lower during the cooling period, but the cooling period has to be prolonged because the synthesis of the germination inducer, hormon-like acid, slows down or comes to a standstill. It is beneficial to cover the sowing with snow during the cooling-period. The temperature below it usually keeps in the optimum range of –4 to 0°C [25 to 32°F]. The sowing is kept moist, and the melting snow helps to destroy the shell, which is advantageous for the germinating seedling. After this cooling-period the sowing may not be immediately exposed to high temperatures. The most effective temperatures are between +5 to +12°C [41 to 54°F], even if germination has started. The best location for this sowing, even in March, April and May, is the open field, the cold frame or a cold greenhouse.

Scheduling

Best Sowing Date	late autumn - early spring (northern Hemisphere, Field condition)
Sowing to Germination	8 - 10 weeks
Germination to Transplant	8 - 10 weeks
Transplanting to Potting	8 - 12 weeks
Cutting back at Transplanting	Not Necessary.

Growing On

Container Size(s)	1 plug per 8/9 cm (3 1/2") / 1-2 plugs per 11/12 cm (4 1/2")
Vernalization	A prudent recommendation would be to provide 6-12 weeks at an average daily temperature of 40°F (5°C). Exposure to cold may not be necessary for flowering but might improve quality.
Forcing	Provide 16 hours of continuous lighting. During the short days of winter, provide a night interruption lighting of 4 hours between 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. 6-8 weeks to flower.
Fertilizer	Light (100-150 ppm)