



# SEED SOWING INSTRUCTIONS

## DOG ROSE

### Treating and growing on seed

**Need:** Rose Hips, cleaning equipment (see 2.a)], polythene freezer bags,, vermiculite (available from Garden Centres) growing tray, rigipots, potting compost, sharp sand, liquid fertiliser. Optional: fine grit, watering tray.

#### 1. STORAGE

Store hips in hessian bag, allowing them to breathe.

#### 2. STRATIFICATION

**In mid October** start process. Steps:

##### a] *Preparation*

Remove seed from pithy case by crushing after drying, and continue until all hips have been crushed.

Create a mix in the following proportions : Total volume of seed mixed with equal parts of compost and vermiculite. Place in polythene freezer bag to start stratification process.

Add water until wet - not much required - use a beaker or similar container. Label seed inside bag and tie off top of bag.

Mark up bag with seed collection details : species, collection site, date.

##### b] *Pretreatment*

i] Store in warm conditions [15° - 18°C **max.**] for 12 weeks - use cool airing cupboard / warm room, in light or dark conditions.

Once a week open bag : mix seeds allowing carbon dioxide to escape and oxygen in. Re-moisten if necessary and remove any mouldy seeds.

ii] Store in cold conditions [1°-5° C] for 12 weeks **or** as long as seed takes to 'chit' [produce a root] - use fridge.

Continue weekly routine as in i].

At first signs of chitting, check bag regularly for root emergence.

### 3. **SOWING**

Fill seed tray or rigipot cells with compost to 1-2 cms. from top of tray. Bang on table to firm.

Sow seed in growing tray when root is about 1/2" long, using universal peat free/John Innes sowing / potting compost .

Fill tray asap with chitted seed [keeps growth even].

Do not sow seed with too long a shoot in a shallow seed tray. Plant out seeds with long roots in rigipots which have deep cells.

Cover compost in seed tray/cells with fine grit / coarse sand if available.

### 4. **GROWING**

#### a] Positioning of tray

Put trays of early seedlings on windowsill/in **warm** greenhouse to avoid winter cold/frosts; if available move into cold frame/greenhouse in April/May, or else leave on windowsill.

Move trees outside in September to overwinter, avoiding excessive sunlight.

Ensure slugs / snails / rodents, etc. cannot get at the seedlings.

Turn the tray regularly to avoid bending of tree stems [seedlings grow towards the light].

#### b] Watering:

Water regularly- every 2-3 days in mid-summer. Water less regularly in winter, but enough to keep roots damp.

It is difficult to overwater in summer - if in doubt, be generous.

#### c] Feeding

Mix in liquid fertiliser (Miracle-Grow or Chempak No.3) when watering, if necessary. Ask for assistance if unclear.

6. ***ADVICE SERVICE AND HELPLINE***

Please telephone COLIN CARPENTER if you have any queries, on :  
01525 716371 OR MOBILE 07751 356094