



SEED SOWING INSTRUCTIONS

Dog Rose

Treating and growing on seed

Need: Rose Hips, cleaning equipment (see 2.1), polythene freezer bags, vermiculite (available from Garden Centres), growing tray/rigipots, peat free loam based potting compost, sharp sand, liquid fertilizer. **Optional:** fine grit, watering tray.

1. **Storage**

Store hips in hessian sack, allowing them to breathe.

2. **Stratification**

In mid October begin process.

Steps :

2.1 **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.

2.2 **Pretreatment**

2.2.1 Store in warm conditions (15° to 18° C) 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.

2.2.2 Store in cold conditions (1° to 5° C) for 12 weeks or as long as seed takes to 'chit' (produce a root) - use fridge.

Continue weekly routine as in 2.2.1. At first signs of chitting, check bag regularly for root emergence.

3. **Sowing**

Fill tray cells with compost to 1-2 cm. from top of tray. Bang on table to firm.

Sow seed in seed tray/rigipot when root is about 1/2" long, using peat free loam based potting compost . Fill tray asap with chitted seed (keeps growth even).

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

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

4. Growing

4.1 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).

4.2 Watering

Water regularly- every 3-4 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.

4.3 Feeding

Mix in liquid fertiliser when watering, if necessary. Ask for assistance if unclear.

5. Advice service and helpline

Phone 07751 365094

E-mail advice@tominalis.co.uk