

## SEED PREPARATION AND SOWING

- Pick berries after they have started to change colour (a little earlier is also OK) and leave for 1-2 weeks for ease of peeling.
- Break open the berry and remove the seeds while also cleaning away any flesh with your fingers. Take care when doing this because sometimes the seed may have started to shoot and you don't want to damage this. Also remove any fine membrane around the seed.
- Soak in a solution of 1 tsp dishwashing liquid to 1L water for 2 hrs or simply rinse in water. Dry on a paper towel for a few days.
- Different methods can be used to germinate the seed, eg
  - a. Put some clean, damp sphagnum moss in a plastic container, lay the seeds on top, then lightly cover with more sphagnum moss, place a lid of the container and leave in a warm spot inside. Check occasionally and spray with water to keep the mixture moist.
  - b. Place the seeds in a zip lock bag with a little moisture or lay between two sheets of moist paper towel (keeping them slightly moist).
  - c. Fill a pot with propagating mix to about two-thirds, water well and let drain for a while. Slightly press the seeds into the mix.
- Keep the seeds/pots of seeds in a warm place, if possible, or at least out of the weather.
- In the case of a. and b. above, when the seeds have produced small roots and leaves (about 2-4cm long), plant in a pot using seedling mix or other well-draining mix.
- If/when the seedlings start to jump out of the mix, it is OK to cover the lot with propagating mix again.
- Depending upon the time of the year, keep moist by watering 2-3 times a week with a spray bottle or fine rose.

## POLLINATION

- Generally, to produce orange flowers, cross two orange clivias together and to produce yellow (cream) flowers, cross two yellow clivias together. If we cross an orange and a yellow clivia together (or vice versa) orange will emerge in the first generation. We can also produce light peach by crossing one peach clivia (eg the Chubb Peach type) onto a yellow clivia or vice versa.
- To undertake pollination of the flower, select powdery pollen (which must be dry) from the ripe anther of one parent and place it on the stigma of the seed parent. We can undertake this transfer by breaking off the stalk with the anther, by putting a little pollen on our fingertip or by using a fine brush. Frozen pollen which has been previously stored can also be used.

Brief notes prepared to accompany the demonstrations at CLIVIA EXPO  
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