Growing your Medinilla scortechinii

This rare and beautiful Medinilla is a must for all serious collectors of tropical flowering plants. The magnificently vibrant orange flowers are produced over a long period and quite long lasting. The shrub is small, under a metre, and can be kept clipped for size and compact growth. The contrasting dark green foliage and bright flowers make a spectacular show.

Although this species can be grown as a garden plant, it seems to do better as a container specimen. This may be because of the better drainage, as this is important for the success of this plant.

On arrival, make sure you pot the plant up immediately. Use a good quality potting mix such as Searle’s. Water in well and find a bright location, without any direct sun at this stage. It is also important to protect from drying winds. Add the recommended amount of Osmocote, depending on the pot size you choose.

I would suggest misting the foliage occasionally over the first few days, particularly in hot weather, this will help relieve any moisture stress on the plant and help the roots re-establish more quickly.

Once the plant is solid again in the pot, you can choose a location where it will grow. Ideally the location should provide bright filtered light with perhaps a little morning sun. In northern climates this species will tolerate less direct sun. If in the garden, the soil must be well drained, but retain a level of consistent moisture. Regular feeding is important for best performance, in pots I recommend Osmocote, in the garden, either Osmocote or an organic fertiliser like Dynamic Lifter is ideal.

Clip your plant lightly now and then to maintain a compact form, and be ready to answer your friends when they ask what that magnificent orange flowering shrub is!

If I can offer any further help, please do contact me anytime. Enjoy your beautiful plant.

Cheers.

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