

Growing your Phyllodium pulchellum seed

Phyllodium pulchellum is a small shrub with unique pendulous inflorescences. It grows around 1.5 to 1.8 metres tall and maintains these strange flowering structures for many weeks over the winter and spring.

Sow your seeds on a well drained medium such as 75% sand and 25% Peat moss, or a potting mix with 50% coarse sand added to it. There is no need to remove the shell from the tiny white seed. Sieve a very thin layer of mix over the top, just enough to cover them. Keep them in a very bright, filtered light location and maintain consistent moisture levels, not sopping wet, just nice and damp. It may take a month or more for the seed to germinate, don't throw them out!

When the seedlings reach 1-2 cm high, carefully transplant them to 5 cm pots using an open potting medium such as Searle's premium brand. Add a pinch only of Osmocote to each pot and water well. Keep your plants in very bright filtered light and do not let them dry out.

Pot on as needed using the same potting medium. Move to morning sun as they grow, and when they are well established, move them to full sun. Give the plants a feed with Osmocote twice a year and water regularly. They do not appreciate drying out completely.

If the shrub gets a bit woody, cut them back by around a third after flowering, this will keep them nice and bushy and produce more flowers.

The only major pests of this plant are chewing insects such as Grasshoppers and Caterpillars, these can simply be crushed or sprayed with the insecticide Carbaryl if the infestation is heavy. In locations with poor air movement, Mealy Bug can cause trouble, a dab of Metholated spirit on a cotton bud with sort minor problems, or a systemic pesticide such as Confidor or Rogor may be used.

Best of success with your seeds, do contact me if I can be of any further help.

Regards

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