**Growing your Rothmannia longiflora**

*Rothmannia longiflora* is a beautiful flowering shrub to small tree from tropical and sub-tropical Africa. It usually forms a bushy shrub in cultivation, with dense, dark green foliage. The long, tubular flowers are produced in profusion in the summer, and smaller flowerings often occur at other times during the year.

It is worth doing some research on the web about the many uses for this plant. It is used as a dye in its native land and also has a wide range of medicinal applications.

When your plant arrives, it is important to get it potted up as soon as possible. I would use a standard 150 to 200 mm pot and a well drained soil mix. I use Searle’s brand but any quality mix is fine. Add a teaspoon of Osmocote and water in well.

Keep your plant in bright filtered light with maybe some early morning sun for a couple of weeks until it starts to re-establish, then slowly move it to more sun. This species seems to prefer protection from hot afternoon sun.

Water your plant occasionally in dry weather while it is young, but as it matures your tree will handle dry spells extremely well. I recommend trimming to shape periodically to maintain a neat and compact form. Always cut back after the main flowering has finished.

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.

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

Regards

Steve

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