



Freesia

Available in Plugs & Seed unless otherwise listed

Cut Flower varieties 2009

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Highsun Express

Freesia hybrida

Royal Champion

PLUGS ARE MULTI SEEDED

- 3 SEEDS PER PLUG

Extra large flowered, tetraploid Freesia. Selected for flower size, stem quality and extra clear colours. Soak seeds 24 hours prior to sowing. Height 70cm. 60 Seeds/gram

not shown

1663 pink

1662 mix



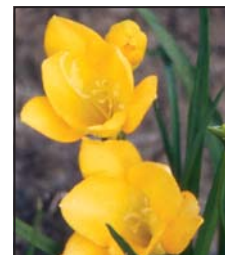
1661 blue



1665 white



1664 red



1666 yellow

Cultural Notes

Common Name:

Freesia.

Family Name:

Iridaceae.

Genus:

Freesia.

Species:

x hybrida.

Promotional Name:

Royal Crown Series.

Country of Origin:

South Africa.

Plant Type:

Annual.

Special Features:

Royal Champion is the best Tetraploid cutting strain available. Tetraploid freesias have larger flowers, brighter colours, strong stems and shorter leaves (which, facilitates harvesting) than traditional freesias.

Colours:

Single colours of blue, pink, red, white, yellow and a mix of all the colours.

Foliage:

Slender sword shaped leaves.

Height with Flower:

50-90cm (20-36").

Location:

May be grown outside, although best grown under cover.

Soil:

Well drained soil.

Transplant Date:

Cool Areas: Feb – Apr. **Warm Areas:** Mar – May.

Flower Date:

Cool Areas: Jun – Aug. **Warm Areas:** Jul – Sep.

Use:

Cut flower.

Growing Temperature:

15-17 °C (59-63 °F). The lowest temperatures at which plants continue to grow is 7 °C (44 °F) night and 10 °C (50 °F) day. Plants will tolerate temperatures as low as 2 °C (34 °F) for short periods of time.

Crop Time:

The earliness of flowering is largely determined by the transplant date and the ability to keep temperatures below 18 °C (64 °F). Bud development depends on the temperature being kept at 13 °C (56 °F). Once the plants have made seven leaves (temperatures above 18 °C (66 °F) at this stage will delay flowering). Flowering usually commences 10-12 weeks after the beginning of this cool period. Earliness of flowering varies according to colour: yellows come in first, then white, red and blue. But the quantity of flowers produced is highest in blue and least in yellow.

Height/Support:

1-2 tiers. The mesh of the lower one should not be too large, to prevent the plants falling over. Approximately 60cm tall in the greenhouse.

Spacing:

10 x 15cm (allow at least 20cm² per plant).

Pest/Diseases:

Aphids, Caterpillars, Fusarium and Botrytis corm rots. Botrytis on foliage, Leaf spot, Bulbs affected with disease are readily discerned by dark marks on the outside and are best destroyed. Seed grown freesias are treated as an annual crop so there are less virus problems than with corm freesias.

Environmental Factors:

Temperatures in excess of 18 °C (64 °F) cause flowering to be delayed and result in excessive leaf production (use shading, ventilation and overhead misting to control temperatures).

Harvest:

If flower initiation starts very early as the result of very low temperatures early in the crop, yield will be heavily reduced just as it will if a sudden and sustained temperature rise occurs before flower initiation is complete.

General Comments:

Seed grown crops generally flower later than corm grown ones by about 6 weeks and take about 4 weeks longer to complete flowering. But it is easier to induce seed freesias to flower earlier than corm freesias. Shading should be provided continuously during the summer. Good circulation is important. High light intensity gives strong firm stems and brightest colours.

Disclaimer: "Significant variations in seed, variety and crop performance, in results and in crop outcomes may occur depending upon geographic location, climate, soil type, soil conditions, cultural and management practices and other growth and development factors. Any cultural and descriptive information or other advice, recommendation, information, assistance or service provided by Highsun Express is intended as a general guide only and should not be relied upon and is provided without liability or responsibility (including for negligence) on the part of Highsun Express. It is recommended that in all cases a small scale trial production is undertaken in order to test local conditions and circumstances that may affect the crop."



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