

Primrose

General Instructions:

This is the most widely grown type. They form a little plant with the flowers radiating off a central stem. The flowers are one to two inches in diameter, and come in mixed shades of orange, red, yellow, mahogany, pink and lavender. More colors are available, since there are other varieties.

This species may be planted outdoors in a shady spot when frosty weather is gone; an excellent plant to combine with spring-flowering bulbs. A cool, moist climate suits them best, so this one is for northern gardeners to enjoy. Indoors, give an eastern or northern exposure with 1-3 hours of sun.

Water and Fertilizer:

Be careful to avoid over-watering. This is the main problem with primula care. The soil should remain evenly moist but not wet. They should be fertilized weekly with low analysis fertilizer such as 10-10-10, or 15-30-15.

Temperature:

A critical environment factor, the plants should be kept as cool as possible during the summer, hence the necessary shady spot.

Pests and Diseases

Aphids are the most common insect pests on Primula. They are easily controlled by an aphidicide. A systemic type is the most effective when aphids are on the underside of the leaves.

Red Spider - - This plant is very susceptible to attacks of red spiders. A regular check on the underside of the leaves is necessary.

Leaf Spot - - (Ramularia) - This disease occurs especially at low temperatures and high relative humidity. Yellow spots will appear on the leaves, and then the edges of the spots will turn brown. Do not confuse this with Botrytis, as this is a secondary infection. Spray regularly with fungicides.

Botrytis - Spray with fungicide.

Iron Deficiency - Caused mostly by incorrect pH. Combat by taking soil samples and spray with iron Chelate. This should be washed off the plants after spraying.