

How to Read the Index

If you have never seen our Index Seminum or Rarium before, please take a moment to read through the following example of a seed listing. It tells you the Latin name of the plant, the common name, whether it's hardy or not, how tall it will grow, what it looks like, special attributes, general cultural requirements, and gives you a key to the Seed Sowing Cultural Tips (see the following page).

Example

1

Stonecrop's Index Seminum and Rarium list seed by the Latin name. The name is shown on the first line of the entry.

Genus and species are underlined and **bold**.

Family is in (parentheses).

3

The description is a blend of the factual and the anecdotal. We tell it as we see it, and as we grow it.

2

At the beginning of a seed description is a letter in parentheses. It indicates one of the following:

- (A) = annual
- (B) = biennial
- (P) = perennial
- (TP) = tender perennial

Next comes detail on the height of the plant.



Agastache foeniculum - (Lamiaceae)

(A) to 3'. Anise Hyssop. A North American native. Long-lasting violet-purple flowers on lightly licorice-scented stems and foliage. Self-sows. Sun/partial shade. 4 & T2



4

The numbers and letters at the end of the seed listing tells you which Seed Sowing Cultural Tip (on the following page) applies.

Please Note

Bulbs - We do not transplant our monocots from their seed pans until they are three years old.

GST** - This abbreviation means that we have just quoted Graham Stuart Thomas.

EAB* - Ernest Augustus Bowles

WI* - Will Ingwersen

Seed Sowing Cultural Tips

The seeds available on the Stonecrop Index *Seminum* and *Rarium* are collected from plants grown on our windy hilltop location of 1100 feet in USDA zone 6a. In the Index, after each seed description is a seed-sowing key, which corresponds to one or more of the instructions on this page.

SEED TREATMENTS *BEFORE* SOWING

1 Scarification and Chipping

Nick seed coat with a sharp knife or a single-edged razor blade. Or, abrade seed coat with sandpaper or an emery board. This seed has a tough protective coating which needs to be broken to aid germination.

2 Soak

Place seed in a room temperature water bath. The seed cells will absorb the water which will help germination.

Sow seed immediately after removal from the water.

2A = for a few hours; **2B** = overnight

PC Pre-chill/Dry Stratification

Place seed packet in the refrigerator to chill. Length of time for chilling is listed in the seed description.

HOW TO SOW

3 Just Cover (most seeds fail to germinate when planted too deeply)

Lightly press seed into surface of soil. Sieve a layer of soil over the seed. The layer should be as thick as the diameter of the seed.

4 Surface Sow

Sow seed on the surface. One can also sieve a very thin layer of vermiculite to barely cover to help prevent moisture loss.

5 Tiny Seed Mix

Mix seed with fine sand to help make an even sowing. Lightly press seed and sand into the soil. Don't cover.

TREATMENTS *AFTER* SOWING

6 Stratification (Warm/moist followed by a cold treatment)

Keep seed pan warm (64-72°) and moist for 2-4 weeks.

Follow with a cold period (25-39°) for 4-6 weeks.

Once the seed has germinated, keep pans cool 41-54°.

6A Keep seed pan at 72° for 6 weeks followed by 25-39° for 6 - 8 weeks, then T1 until germination.

7 Keep Cool

After sowing, put seed pan in a clear plastic bag, tie off, and place in the refrigerator for a period of time. This seed could still be maturing and/or slow to germinate. Check periodically for germination. Do not discard the seed pans prematurely; they may take more than one growing season.

Δ Special Tip

Some seed in the Index is marked with this symbol shown to the left. If germination does not occur after 3-4 weeks, place seed pans in a cool location (about 40°) for 2-4 weeks.

TEMPERATURES FOR SEED GERMINATION

T1 = 55-65° **T2** = 65-70° **T3** = 70-85°

WATERING

We recommend bottom-watering your seed pans. Place seed pans in a water bath. When the soil surface becomes dark and glistening, it is wet. Remove promptly and allow excess water to drain. Overhead watering makes holes in the soil and washes away seed.

PLEASE NOTE

- To keep seed moist after sowing, place the seed pan in a clear plastic bag and tie off. When the seed has germinated, remove the bag.
- Large seeds should be pressed firmly into the soil.
- "Best sown in situ" – This phrase means: sow the seed in the site where you want it to grow.
- Do not stratify seeds below 23°F. Seed cells may rupture.

Seeds of cultivated varieties offered on the *Seminum* and *Rarium* are either reputed to "come true from seed" or confirmed to do so in our own trials. There remains a risk that a portion of said seed may revert to morphological characteristics consistent with the species from which it derives.