

Crossandra infundibuliformis

Orange Marmalade



SAKATA®

The orange flowers bring a nice splash of colour to late Summer and early Autumn. Crossandra will compliment mixed containers and patio planters, or can be planted alone. The variety is also suitable as year round pot plant on the Northern European market. An important characteristic of Crossandra is that they keep flowers longer even in a room condition. In other words, they have a longer shelf life than other pot plants and can be used for sunny & shady places.



- ✿ A true tropical plant with glossy green leaves and vibrant orange flower spikes
- ✿ Outstanding crop for late Summer and Early Autumn sales
- ✿ Tolerant of high heat and humidity
- ✿ Can be grown in a variety of container sizes from 10-15 cm pots, baskets and combos

	Annual		Cuttings
	Pot Plant		Upright
	35-50 cm		Full sun
	25-35 cm		10-15 cm, baskets, combos

Culture Guide

Propagation

(5 weeks) Rooting: For the best results stick one cutting per cell and use a rooting hormone. Mist as needed to maintain the plants turgid. Bottom heat enhances root development. Maintain soil temperatures between 21-24°C. Crossandra is a true tropical plant and appreciates warmer air temperatures. Maintain 24°C days and 20°C nights until roots are present. To prevent plant stretch apply Cycocel or Alar. Alternatively, the plants may be pinched at the grower's discretion. Remove any visible flowers or buds while in propagation and apply 175 ppm N once a week beginning in week 2.

Pack & Pot Culture

In general Crossandra will thrive in warm temperatures and high light and is ideal for 10-15 cm pots and 4 liter containers. These plants will be showcased at a time when other annuals have shut down from the heat. Crossandra can be grown together with other tropical plants as a year round pot plant.

Media A light, sterile media with good drainage and aeration is best. The optimum pH range is between 5.8 and 6.2.

Temperature Crossandra thrives under high temperature, high light and high humidity. Night temperatures should be maintained at 18-24°C and day temperatures at an average of 24°C. Crossandra does not handle cold temperatures well. At temperatures below 13°C the foliage will turn black and drop. Higher temperatures will also speed flowering. At 24°C flowering will start 9 days earlier than plants grown at 21°C. During the vegetative stage high relative humidity should be maintained. During the flowering stages relative humidity should be reduced to control Botrytis.

Irrigation / Fertilizer Plants should be allowed to dry thoroughly between watering and always water in the early part of the day allowing the foliage to dry before nightfall. Allowing the plant to wilt should be avoided. Constant liquid feed at 200-250 ppm with a balanced liquid fertilizer. Supplemental magnesium at 30-50 ppm is beneficial. Crossandra requires iron and manganese so a trace element programme is also beneficial. The EC should range from 1.5-2.0 (2-1 dilution).

Lighting Crossandra is not photoperiodic but flower development is dependent on light intensity. Flowers will only develop when the light intensity is 21,520 lux or higher. The plant remain vegetative when the light intensity is below 19,500 lux so in low light regions supplemental lighting is required.

Growth regulators Under adequate light intensities and proper spacing the use of plant growth regulators is usually not necessary. If needed, Crossandra will respond to Alar.

Pests & diseases Aphids, Spider Mites, Whitefly, Phythium and Rhizoctonia.

Crop schedule	Container	# of cuttings	
	10 cm	1	13-14 weeks
	15 cm	3 – no pinch	15 weeks
	15 cm	1 – pinched 2x	17-18 weeks

Potting: Plant one rooted cutting per 10 cm or 3 cuttings per 15 cm pot with no pinch.

Pinching: A pinch may be helpful 1-2 weeks after transplanting to promote branching and shape.

Growers can also experiment with the use of Florel (ethephon) to enhance branching.

Spacing: Plants should be established pot tight but spaced before foliage touches.

All information given is intended for general guidance only and is believed to be accurate. Cultural details are based on Northern Hemisphere conditions and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Application of recommended growth regulators and chemicals are subject to local legislations and manufacturer's label instructions.