

Annette's Delphinium Trial

Annette Ward

I get most of my seed from The Delphinium Society, but I also sowed some of my own saved seed.

I sowed the seed on 26th February indoors (60 degrees). I put the sown pots in a washing up bowl and covered the bowl with foil - the bathroom is a good place to put them whilst you wait for germination! Check them after two weeks for germination and when they have germinated put them somewhere protected, not too hot and protect them from slugs.

Once large enough I pricked out four to an 11cm square pot and let them grow on to a decent size. As I was pushed for veg garden space and time I didn't finish planting them out until early June. I didn't bother to split the four small plants - I just planted them out about a foot apart each way. I staked them as soon as they started to grow and had to water them virtually every day because of the extended hot spell because I am on sandy soil. The result is flowers at the end of July into August.

I am labelling the ones to trial/keep/sell/or chuck. They will stay in the veg garden until they start growing in February/March next year when I need the veg garden for growing produce next year. I will then pot them up and put them in the polytunnel for a bit of protection until they start to grow a bit. Slugs are renowned for nibbling the new shoots!