

Nerine sarniensis - Guernsey Lily

Cultural Hints

These winter growing Nerines should be kept in a frost free greenhouse during the winter, but they can be placed outside during the summer months.

Repot no more frequently than every four years in June/July, taking offsets for propagation. Use 4 inch to 5 inch plastic pots. The bulbs can be planted in any good quality compost, which drains well, or in the following suggested mixture:

- 3 parts by bulk of grit (size: 5mm or less).
- 2 parts by bulk of multipurpose peat compost.
- 1 part by bulk of silver sand.
- To each 10 litres of this mixture add 10g of Osmocote.

Beware of low quality composts that are heavy and gloopy when wet – a good mixture will have a good air content when wet and be free draining. Other than that nerines are very tolerant of varied soil and compost mixes, and are often successfully grown in 100% peat based potting compost, or good garden soil.

The majority of these nerines flower from August to October. The foliage appears shortly after flowering, turning yellow in March and completely dies away by April/May.

From April to August the bulbs appear dormant and they should be kept in a well ventilated environment.

During the summer the pots should be kept dry except for a good watering once during June and again in July, so that the bulbs remain plump and do not become dehydrated.

In August, water heavily and as the flower spikes begin to appear, water a little and increase the amount as the spikes develop. Allow the plants to dry between waterings and if there is any doubt do not water. Nerines do not need heavy feeding and the occasional feed of half strength tomato feed will be sufficient during the growing season.

Note these cultural notes do not apply to summer growing nerines or those that are evergreen in horticulture in northern Europe.