

Cultural Information for:	Calceolaria Dainty	Annual
Common Name:	Pocketbook plant	
Botanical Name:	Calceolaria hybrida	
Seed Count:	22,700/oz.	800/gram
Optimum Germination Temperature:	65-68°F / 18-20°C	
Optimum Growing Temperature:	65-72°F / 18-22°C	

Calceolaria is a unique pot crop that is economical to produce. The Dainty series is ideal for 3-1/2 - 4 inch/8-10 cm. pot production and possesses a higher resistance to botrytis than other series. Calceolaria Dainty is available in a Mix of Red, Red & Yellow, Yellow w/Red Spot and Bronze. Calceolaria Dainty is sold as pelleted seed only and is ready to sell about 4 months after sowing.

Plug Culture – 5 weeks (288 / 12 x 24 tray)

Stage One (days 1-10) Single sow (pelleted) seed into plug trays filled with fine peat and a pH between 5.5 and 6.0. Calceolaria requires light to germinate but a light cover of medium vermiculite helps to maintain optimum humidity and dissolve the pellet. Maintain* a minimum temperature of 65°F / 18-20°C throughout the entire plug stage. **This is especially critical for larger plug cells (128) as the plants are receptive to flower bud initiation at 3-4 leaf pairs.*

Stage Two (days 11-20) After seedlings germinate place in a bright greenhouse with good air movement and a day temperature of 70-72°F/21-22°C and a night temperature of 65-68°F/18-20°C. Supplemental lighting can help hasten development under low light periods. If no starter charge is present in the media, a light feed of 75-100ppm Nitrogen from a well-balanced calcium nitrate based fertilizer is recommended.

Stage Three (days 21-34) The true leaves are forming and plugs are beginning to fill in the cells. Maintain the pH at 6.2 or lower to avoid iron chlorosis. Fertilize as needed to maintain the EC at 1.0 to 1.6 mmhos (2:1 dilution) and allow the media to dry slightly between irrigations. Maintain the temperature between 65-72°F/18-23°C to avoid premature flower initiation. Calceolaria is sensitive to sunscald at all production phases so avoid light intensities above 5,000 foot candles/54,000 lux.

Stage Four (day 35) The plugs are now ready to transplant into pots. Do not delay transplanting.

Pot Culture

Soil: Transplant into pots using a rich and well-drained soil. A soil pH of 5.5 to 6.0 will give best results.

Fertilizer: Fertilize as needed with 75-100 ppm Nitrogen using a well balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation and maintain the EC at 1.0 to 1.8 mmhos, (2:1 dilution).

Bulking: To produce sufficient vegetative growth prior to flower bud initiation, maintain a minimum temperature of 65°F.

Flower Initiation: Calceolaria Dainty is basically day-length neutral in regard to flower initiation. Night temperature is the major factor that influences flower initiation. Flower bud initiation occurs when the plants have 3-4 pairs of true leaves and the night temperature is between 52-57°F/11-14°C. Allow 5-6 weeks for flower bud initiation.

Production Schedule (18-20 weeks)

Cultural Step	Production Time	Temperature °F / °C
Sow seed (288)	5 weeks	65-70°F / 18-21°C
Transplant - Bulking	4-5 weeks	65-72°F / 18-22°C
Flower bud initiation	5-6 weeks	54°F / 12°C
Forcing	4 weeks	59-64°F / 15-17°C

Fast Cropping Production Schedule (16-18 weeks)

Cultural Step	Production Time	Temperature °F / °C	Photoperiod*
Sow seed (288)	5 weeks	65-70°F / 18-21°C	15 hours
Transplant-Bulking	2-3 weeks	65-72°F / 18-22°C	15 hours
Flower initiation	5-6 weeks	54°F / 12°C	10-12 hours
Forcing	4 weeks	59-64°F / 15-17°C	11 hours

**Photoperiod does not influence flower bud initiation but supplemental lighting can accelerate plant development and reduce time to flower.*

Growth regulator: Dainty is naturally compact and should not require growth regulator applications.

Insects: Whitefly, mites and aphids.

Disease: Root and crown rots. Avoid overhead and excessive watering around flowering to prevent botrytis. Calceolaria is susceptible to tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV), which is spread by thrips. If the foliage begins to turn chlorotic, check the root system for signs of poor development that could have been caused by over-watering, root rots, or high salt levels. A high or low pH can also contribute to chlorotic foliage from iron or magnesium deficiency, respectively.

Marketing: Calceolaria will stretch and deteriorate quickly if held in dark and/or warm temperature conditions. Calceolaria Dainty makes an attractive display when mixed in wicker baskets for holiday parties.

“All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on North American 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 and state regulations. Always follow manufacturer’s label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.”