Bessera elegans
Coral Drops

Matthew Holton
• Bessera elegans is a desert bulb plant, native to Northern Mexico and Texas.
• It is in the Alliaceae family, which is the Onion family.
• It is a flower that is roughly 18-24” tall, with up to 30 flowers on a single plant.
http://www.blomsbulbs.com/products/31-Spring-2012-collection
[Above picture]

http://www.visionspictures.com/image/28780 [Right picture]
Cultural Requirements

• Hardy to zones 8-11, and requires a semi-droughty environment.
• Has been found in a wide range of soil pH’s, from 6.1-7.8.
• Requires a well-drained medium to thrive.
• DOES NOT TOLERATE FROST
My Experiment

• Determining germination and transplant success.
• 70 seeds sown into a 288-plug tray during week 10. No germination until week 15.
• Seedlings are continuing to shoot up even 3 weeks after removal from mist house.
• Emergence at this point roughly at 50%.
Production Schedule

• Should be propagated vegetatively.
• Bulbs should be split, and planted into 6” pots in March.
• Watering is very important. AVOID WET FEET!
• Roughly 16 weeks from potting – flowering.
• A target sales date should be set for July-August.
• Bulbs need to be stored dry over the winter.
Potential Uses

- Currently grown as an exotic indoor potted plant by unique plant enthusiasts.
- Potential landscape plant for desert areas that are free of frost and winter rain.
Potential Holiday Sales

• The 4th of July!

http://www.yougrowgirl.com

http://www.thethirddimension.net/images/view/red_fireworks-1366x768.html
Room for Improvement

- Breeding improvements for germination success and uniformity
- Tolerance to frost damage
Works Cited

• Brent and Becky’s Bulbs. Website. <https://store.brentandbeckysbulbs.com/summer/productview/?sku=57-10>.


• Questions?