

An abstract background featuring a dark, almost black, field on the left that transitions into a lighter, greyish area on the right. From the right side, several bright, white light rays or beams emanate, spreading outwards and downwards, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is reminiscent of a light source shining through a narrow opening or a lens.

Digitalis dubia

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Hort 5051

The Spanish Foxglove

The Spanish Foxglove

Digitalis dubia (J. J. Rodr)

Family: Plantaginaceae (Formerly of the Scrophs)

Native to the Balearic Islands just off the eastern coast of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea.



A little plant info

Digitalis dubia is a perennial (!) in the Foxglove family.

Naturally an extremely dwarfed Foxglove. Grows to roughly 12".

Hosts tubular flowers on a spike that are sugar pink.

Flowers in the late spring/early summer, but can be dead-headed to re-flower until the fall.

A little more info

Furry gray leaves.

'Digitalis' translates to 'finger-like.'

Many parts of plant are poisonous.

Prefers light shade but can handle full sun.

Native to dry, rocky borders of mountains.

(Needs a well-drained soil).



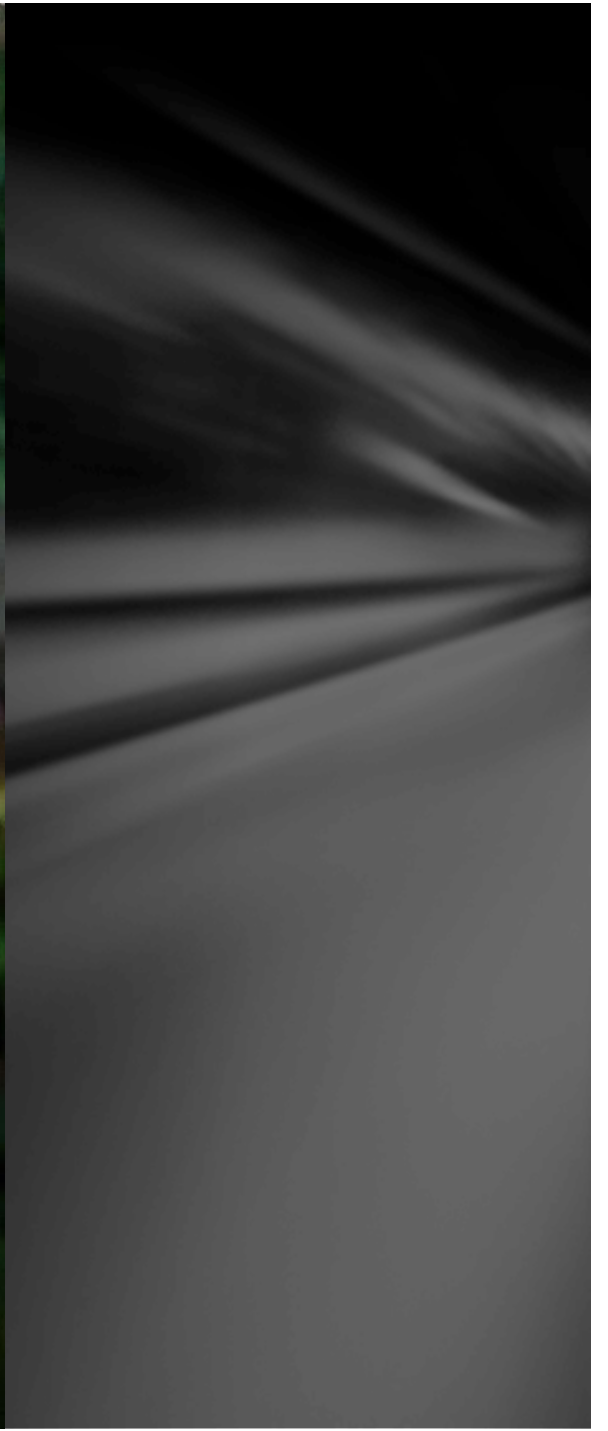
Market potential?

A beautiful perennial plant like the Spanish Foxglove has nearly unlimited potential in the flowerbed industry (Especially a re-bloomer)!

It is a perfect choice for a Foxglove to be container-grown.

A poster plant for xeriscaping due to high drought tolerance.

The genus *Digitalis* produces a chemical called 'digoxin' that is used in heart-related illnesses.



Limiting Factors

Only found to be hardy to 10 degrees F...

The same chemicals that are extracted for medicinal use can cause cardiac arrest and other horrendous side-effects in humans and animals (Digitalis plants have been called "Dead Man's Bells" and "Witch's Glove").

The growth of *Digitalis dubia* and my experience with it

The first year of the Spanish Foxglove's life is devoted entirely to root and shoot growth. Flowers will not be produced until a cold period has been induced after sufficient plant growth. My plants were vernalized for two weeks starting in week 15 in hopes that there would be enough growth to hopefully start to flower by the end of the semester. The vernalized plants are about half the size of the plants left out and I do not believe that they were mature enough for the cold period to induce flowering. I'm hoping to find a way to give the remaining plants a cold treatment later this summer to bring some foxglove-pots to life.



My crop schedule

Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19
Sown				Transplanted		Begin vernalization		End vern.		Target date

Producer's schedule

As noted, I don't believe my vernalization was successful because the plants were too immature to even want to flower. My plants are just now putting on a little bulk and would be possible candidates for a successful vernalization.

From my experience, I believe the Spanish Foxglove should be grown for at least 10 weeks before attempting to flower them with a cold period.

After a successful germination it will be about a month before buds start popping on the mature plant.



Reference material and copyrights

<http://www.srgc.org.uk/wisley/2008/180608/log.html>

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<http://www.alpinegardensociety.net/servlet/articleservlet?command=printablearticle&sitearea=show&articleid=98&category=showreport>

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