



Mirabilis longiflora

Sweet Four O'clock

Tyler Warren

Taxonomy

- Nyctaginaceae Family
- Perennial Dicot
- Sweet Four O'clock



Background

- Mexico and the Southwest United States
- Dry, desert-like environments

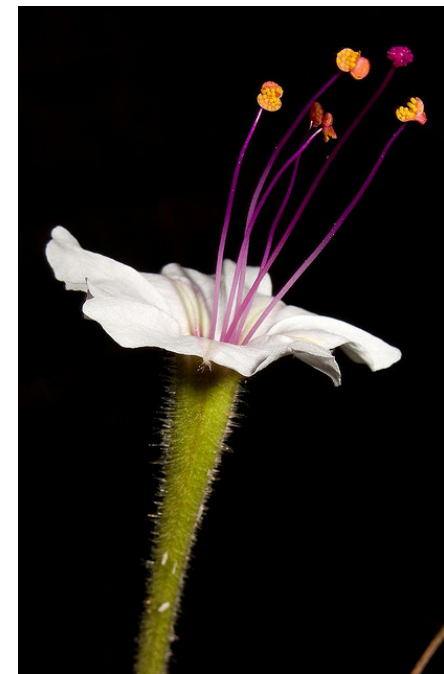
Taxonomic Description

- Sprawling, bush-like habit (3' x 3')
- Full sun
- Drought and heat resistant
- Well-drained, light soil



Taxonomic Description

- Flowers
 - ½" to 1 ½" wide
 - White with a purple fused center
 - Elongated purple stamen and anthers



Taxonomic Description

- Flowers
 - Scented
 - Nocturnal – Hawkmoth pollination
 - Late summer
- Roots
 - Tuberos
- Leaves
 - Heart Shaped

Propagation

- Seed
 - Thompson & Morgan, etc
- Stratification suggested
 - One week
- Once sown:
 - A) Mist house
 - B) Polythene bag for one week

Experiment

- Stratification vs. Non Stratification
- 30 seeds divided into two groups with 15 in each



Experiment

Group 1

- Stratification
- Seeds chilled at 40° for one week
- Covered with vermiculite

Group 2

- Non-Stratification
- Directly sown
- Covered with vermiculite

Experiment

Group 1 (Stratified)

- Germination Results
- Week 10: 20%
- Week 11: 93% total

Group 2 (Non-Stratified)

- Germination Results
- Week 10: 0%
- Week 11: 60% total

Production

- Nine to eleven week production schedule
- Week 9 - Sown
- Week 10 & 11 - Germination
- Week 12 - Capillary Mats
- Week 13 - Transplanted