

Enkianthus - Care Guide

Care & Cultivation

Enkianthus grow best in full sun. Certainly they flower better in full sun and produce better autumn colour in sun than partial shade.



Enkianthus are ericaceous plants which prefer acidic soils which are reasonably well drained. They will tolerate a degree of drought but this may lead to browning on the edges of the leaves.

At Caerhays we grow them mainly on a sunny bank where the drainage is good but there are other specimens growing well in wetter locations along the drive.

Enkianthus do not mind wind exposure (although this can blow away their autumn colour) and tolerate even our most severe English winters with no difficulty as you would expect from the altitude they come from. In the US *E. campanulatus* has survived minus 28°-30°C without bark split.



E. campanulatus 'Ruby Glow'



Enkianthus curvus
recurvus



Jaimie's *Enkianthus*
campanulatus
'Recurvus'

The genus does not suffer from any serious pests and diseases in the way that rhododendrons do. In the US *Enkianthus* have been found to be deer

resistant.

So an easy plant to grow!

Propagation

Many plants which are uncommon in cultivation (undeservedly so in the case of *Enkianthus*) are often, usually even, difficult to propagate. This is not the case with this genus which is another major plus.



Enkianthus palibini Seeds



Enkianthus 'Wallaby' seedling



Enkianthus palibini seedlings



Enkianthus campanulata 'Vesta' seedling



Enkianthus seedlings



Enkianthus seedlings

They require no special pre germination treatment in the fridge and can be

sown at once or, preferably, stored dry and sown in early spring.

The seeds can be surface sown on a free draining compost or milled moss. [See our seed storing & care article here for more details](#) .

Cuttings are reasonably easy but only if taken in late spring or early summer (i.e. fairly soft new growth). It is best to leave the rooted cuttings undisturbed through the first winter in cell trays or a cold frame. They can then be potted before they resume growth in the spring rather than in the autumn.

Further Reading

[More reading and pictures about Enkianthus can be found in the Caerhays Garden Diary](#) .

[Enkianthus - why should they be more widely grown?](#) - RHS lecture notes from Caerhays Estate.

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