

Primula - Growing Guide

Introduction

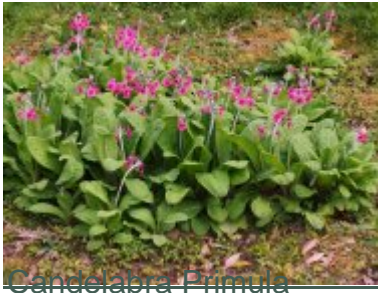
The nursery offers a wide range of candelabra primulas which like particular conditions in the garden and a range of other primula species and varieties which can have more varied needs and requirements. It is probably easiest to treat these two hardy groups of common and popular garden plants separately here.

Candelabra Primulas

These are robust perennials that produce tall flower spikes containing several whorls or circles of flowers which open from the bottom upwards the spikes can be 2-3ft tall. After flowering and seeding the plant dies down and the leaves more or less disappear over winter. These plants thrive in colonies in damper shadier areas and particularly like being grown in boggy areas or near streams and water. It is important that the soil around them is kept clear because they seed prolifically and the seed readily germinates on moist bare earth. Clumps can therefore grow, spread, and multiply entirely naturally although the seed are ridiculously easy to germinate if sown as soon as the seed heads go from green to brown in the summer. We offer seeds ourselves of some candelabra varieties.

We have found that if you leave different coloured candelabra primulas together they will cross themselves up, but over a few decades *P. helodoxa* (yellow) seems to become the dominant and longest lasting survivor. In the woodland at Caerhays nearly all our plants have yellow flowers and very few are still pink, white or red.

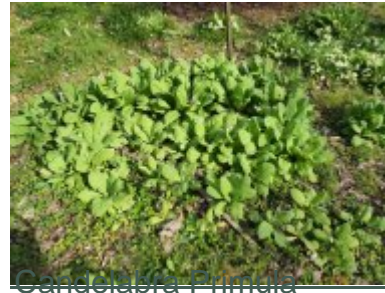
You can see pictures of the candelabra primulas which we offer below as well as pictures of how they grow so well in waterside conditions.



Candelabra Primula



Candelabra Primula



Candelabra Primula

The primula species which we grow perform best in partial shade in deep, humus rich, moist, loamy or peaty soils which must not be allowed to dry out. Full sun can only be tolerated if the soil does not dry out in the summer.

With this general rule in mind the different species flower in different ways. Some have a multitude of single flowers while others have bunched clusters of flowers on stalks of varying lengths.

P. capitata grows to around 15in with dark purple flowers in flattened spherical racemes on mealy white stems from late spring to early autumn.



Primula capitata



Primula capitata



Primula capitata &
Primula vialii



Primula denticulata



Primula denticulata



Primula denticulata



Primula florindae



Primula florindae



Primula sikkimensis



Primula sikkimensis



Primula veris



Primula veris



Primula veris



Primula vialli



Primula vialli



Primula vulgaris



Primula vulgaris



Primula vulgaris



Primula 'Wanda'



Primula 'Wanda'



Primula helodoxa



Primula helodoxa



Primula helodoxa &
Primula pulverulenta



Primula vialii 'Alison
Holland'

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