

# GROWER'S FACTS

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## S tevia

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67-9210-01N

**PLANTATION: Indoor:** sow the stevia seedlings in autumn (in a pot or in a bucket), make sure to maintain a temperature of 20 °C to 25 °C. The soil should not dry out, so a sufficiently humid atmosphere is needed. The seeds germinate in 7–14 days.

**Outdoor:** transplant them after the last frosts.

**Container:** choose them of sufficient size.

**SOIL: Indoor:** A well-drained, porous seedling soil is ideal for preventing overwatering.

**Outdoor:** It adapts to many soil types, including poor soils, but will thrive best on a rich substrate.

**Container:** Use ripe compost set on a bed of clay beads for drainage.

**SPACING:** in the garden, space each plant at 50 cm apart.

**CULTURAL PRACTICES:** It is a plant of tropical origin that needs, in the ground as in pots, an environment close to its natural environment, humidity and heat. At the beginning of its development, the tips of its stems are regularly pinched to promote branching and stimulate the growth of young twigs. First of all, be aware that stevia is not resistant to temperatures below 5 °C. We therefore cultivate this plant in the ground in our latitudes as an annual. Choose a rather sunny location. Water them regularly in case of drought and hot weather. If you have chosen to grow your stevia outdoors, the foliage may wilt at the first cold. It is advisable in our climates to cultivate stevia in pots in order to be able to protect it from the cold and frost by watering as soon as the soil is dry. The advantage of growing it in a container is that it can be brought in at the first cold. Keep your plant in a bright place. Reduce watering in winter if the room is cooler.

**HARVEST:** the harvest of stevia leaves is done as and when needed as soon as they reach their adult size. This is possible when grown indoors. If you grow your stevia as an annual, prefer a single harvest, then completely cutting off all the foliage in late summer. Then dry your stevia crop in the sun. Then grind them to make powder. Keep them away from moisture for as long as you want.