

# GROWER'S FACTS

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## Sensitive plant

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### Mimosa pudica

*Mimosa pudica* is certainly the most popular of plant curiosities. Since these leaves close when touched, hence its name sensitive. She prefers bright, but indirect light.

**CULTURAL PRACTICES:** Fill your tray with a standard seedling compost. Place the seeds on it, water and then spread a thin layer of potting soil over it. Cover your tray with a plastic dome to promote a constant humid environment. The ideal temperature for germination is around 25 °C. The germination time is around 35 days.

**SOIL:** a well-drained, porous sowing media is best to prevent overwatering. Transplantation: slightly acid soil, composed of 1/3 soil, 1/3 heather soil and 1/3 peat to install your plant. Don't forget to drain the bottom of the pot well with a layer of clay pebbles or gravel to facilitate the evacuation of watering water.

**GROWING TIPS:** Place your plant in a **bright location, but out of direct sun** during the hottest hours of the day.

**Watering should be copious in summer so that the mixture never completely dries out.** Every fifteen days, add a little liquid fertilizer for green plants during the growth period. In winter, watering once a week should suffice, unless the plant is grown in a very heated apartment.

Attention, from its tropical origins, the sensitive has retained a preference for very humid atmospheres. Don't hesitate to install it on a large dish filled with damp clay balls or to often spray the foliage in case of strong heat, this will also prevent the appearance of red spider mites.

At the end of summer, *Mimosa pudica* adorns itself with small round inflorescences (1–2 cm in diameter) consisting of bristly stamens of blue-lilac or pink colour.