

# SFA

*Seeds for Africa*

## Watsonia

It requires a full sun position and a sharply drained, preferably acid soil, containing well-decomposed compost, and needs regular watering during the winter growing period.

The corms multiply prolifically by offset formation and thick clumps should be lifted every three years to maintain good flowering performance, as excessively thick clumps seldom produce flowers.

During the summer dormant period the soil must be kept dry, as the corms soon rot under constantly moist conditions.

Watsonia if grown in containers needs large containers having a diameter of 35 cm or more.

Thick clumps can be lifted and the offsets separated at any time during the summer dormant period.

They should preferably be replanted as soon as possible thereafter into dry soil, as corms kept in packets often fall prey to mealy bug infestation when stored for extended periods.

Watsonia is easily propagated by seeds sown in deep seed trays or seed beds in autumn, in a well-drained, sandy medium containing some finely sifted, acid compost.

Sow the seeds thinly to prevent overcrowding and minimize the occurrence of damping-off and rust fungi, and cover with a 3-5 mm layer of sowing medium (seeds sown too shallow tend to float to the surface after watering, and fail to germinate).

Water well using a fine rose spray and keep moist.

Fresh seeds germinate within three to four weeks, and at the beginning of the second season, young corms can be planted out into bags and be grown on for a year or two.

Under ideal conditions, flowers can be expected for the first time during the third or fourth season.

© Seeds for Africa Limited

No part of this document may be reproduced, copied or distributed without the express written permission of the Directors of Seeds for Africa Limited.

[www.seedsforafrica.co.za](http://www.seedsforafrica.co.za)

*Seeds for Africa*