



The Citrus Centre

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Miracle Berry Factsheet

Where to Grow Miracle Berries

Miracle Berry plants are from tropical West Africa and as such, are well adapted to warm humid climates.

An ideal place to grow the is a warm, tropical, humid glasshouse but heating would be quite expensive in the winter.

Whilst they love these conditions and grow well in them, they do adapt well to dryer environments.

In the UK, full sun in south facing window or conservatory, away from radiators, works very well for these plants.

Many articles that recommend partial shade are talking about strong, tropical sunshine, not our good old UK sun and certainly not behind window glass, so full sun is best, although in the summer shading would be required if kept in a glasshouse or conservatory to stop overheating.

By all means though, if you have a lovely tropically heated, humid glasshouse they will certainly grow well in these conditions too.

Watering and Feeding

You should water very well flushing plenty through the pot and then let the plant *almost* dry out between waterings.

Never let the plant completely dry out as severe root damage will occur and possible rapid plant death!

The amount is important as too little will not flush the compost well enough and will lead to a build of salts from the fertiliser and lime from the water and possible dry spots.

Plenty of water is needed letting any excess run away so the pot never stands in water.

Soggy compost will kill a plant very quickly so be sure to let it drain.

A dilute Citrus Fertiliser used each watering works extremely well and ensures healthy growth and plenty of nutrients for fruit production.

Compost

A good quality container plant compost works well providing it is free-draining.

Steer well clear of multi-purpose composts as they can be very variable and of substandard quality.

Peat based or peat free can be used as long as it is fairly open as Miracle Berries hate being waterlogged.

Don't worry too much about the PH, as although they are acid lovers, most quality commercial composts will be at a PH suitable for growing them.

With modern fertilisers containing chelated micronutrients and lots of water to flush the compost each watering, the PH shouldn't be an issue.

Potting on should be performed in late spring when the plant is becoming pot-bound but great care should be taken not to disturb the roots as they really hate this!

Flower Set

This seems to be one that people have the most problem with.

The flowers are tiny and hand pollination is just not practical.

Which ever method we tried, small paint brushes, rabbits foot, makeup brushes etc, whilst resulting in some fruit set, never resulted in good set.

The answer is water...

Spraying open flowers with water helps set fruit rather well. We use a small trigger spray on young plants but use a lance on a hose on larger plants in our glasshouse and nearly every flower sets.

Sprayed once or twice a day whilst the flowers are open seems to work best.

It has been suggested that high humidity is therefore the answer, but we how found this alone does not help set fruit.

Grown in high, 80-90%, relative humidity conditions, with specialised fog nozzles, the fruit set was poor, even with hand pollination and only improved with blasts of water on open flowers.

It is possible that there is a specialist insect that pollinates these flowers in Africa but without it, a jet of water does the job nearly as well.