

CULTURE ADVICE

Thunbergia

Description:	"Sunny Susy" is a beautiful, easy-care climber or hanging basket plant for espaliers, balconies or tree trunks in sunny places sheltered from the wind; it is flowering all summer through. Apply ample fertilizer and water in summer! Climbs up to 2 m in height during summer, with 'Orange' sending out more tendrils than 'Yellow'. Passes the winter when kept in a winter garden at 8 - 10 °C. Origin: East Africa/Madagascar; thermophilic, winding climber of the Acanthaceae family, with sagittate leaves and big, round flowers in bright yellow or orange, each with a pitch-black eye.
Potting:	11 - 12 cm pots (1 plant/pot); approx. 35 plants/m ² ; weeks 6 - 12 14 - 19 cm pots (3 plants/pot); approx. 30 - 20 plants/m ² ; weeks 4 - 10
Substrate:	Well-draining, limy, loose substrate (add perlite if necessary). pH approx. 6.5
Fertilization:	Medium to high consumption of nutrients, application of 0.15 - 0.2 % complete fertilizer once or twice a week.
Temperature:	Approx. 16 - 18 °C in the first 3 to 4 weeks, then lower to 14/10 to 16/14 (day/night).
Light:	Full light, no shadow.
Flowering:	Starts early in May depending on light conditions (if no extra light is used).
Growth regulators:	Growth regulation is not necessary. Remember to use climbing supports!
Pinching:	Pinching is not absolutely necessary. However, if branching is not satisfactory, some trimming or shaping is recommended to get a better plant build-up. 1 to 2 weeks after potting or immediately in case of a suitable young plant size.
Diseases / pest:	Pythium, plant lice; caution: spider mites; take hygienic measures!

Water balance is of importance; the plants must not stand too wet, danger of botrytis, damage to roots and irregular plant build-up are the consequences.

Updated: 08/09/2009