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Sensitive Plant Pink Sparkles

Mimosa nuttallii

Not so tender after all! Frost-hard and robust!

Worth Knowing: The robust and frost-hard Sensitive Plant is a small perennial shrub that grows only 25 to 30 cm high and develops up to 40 cm long sprouts. Like other Mimosa species, it folds the longish pinnate leaves in, when touched or due to vibrations. In August and September, it produces pompom-like, long-stalked flower heads that consist of small pinky blossoms with long pink filaments and golden-yellow anthers.

Natural Location: The sandy and rocky soils of the Great Plains in the USA are the natural habitat of the Mimosa nuttallii.

Cultivation: Seed propagation indoors is possible throughout the year. To increase the germinability, you should initially keep the seeds in the refrigerator for about two weeks; then place them for another 24 hours in a bowl with lukewarm water for priming. After that, spread the seeds onto moist potting compost, put just a little compost earth on top and cover the seed container with clear film to prevent the earth from drying out. Don't forget to make some holes in the clear film and take it every second or third day completely off for about 2 hours. That way you avoid mold formation on your potting compost. Place the seed container somewhere bright and warm with a temperature between 20°C and 25° Celsius and keep the earth moist, but not wet. Usually it takes only a week until germination. Due to the fine roots, you should wait another six weeks before shifting the seedlings, and plant only three or four together in the same pot.

Place: Best is a bright spot for your plant, and during summer also outside in a warm and sunny place.

Care: The Mimosa nuttallii grows in its natural habitat in dry and gravelly soil and has rather modest water requirements. Just keep your Sensitive Plant constantly moist and avoid waterlogging, especially in the saucer. Between April and September, it is recommended giving fertilizer for tub plants every three to four weeks. Since it is a fast-growing plant, it would be best, to choose a bigger pot for planting right from the beginning.

During the winter: Sensitive Plants are not annual, even though it is often said that they were. During winter it casts the leaves and can be pruned back to 15 to 20 cm. Only limited watering is necessary to keep the earth from drying out. The plant is best to be kept in a cool and even darker place with temperatures between 5° and 15° Celsius until March.