

# PRIMULA OBCONICA

## TOUCH ME

### CULTIVATION GUIDE

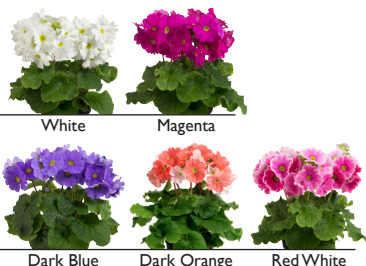


Schoneveld  
breeding



Touch Me

#### 'Touch Me' Mini F1



- Flowering period: fall – spring
- Hardiness zone: 5-9
- Pot size: 3.5", 4", qt (9 - 10,5 cm)
- Primin free!
- Suitable for retail



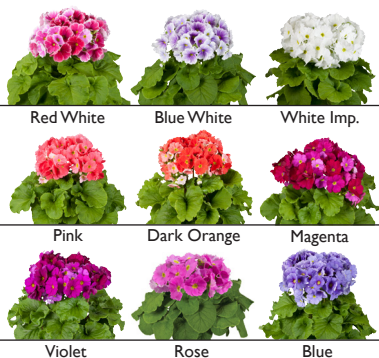
#### 'Touch Me' Midi F1



- Flowering period: fall – spring
- Hardiness zone: 4-9
- Pot size: 4", 5", qt (10,5 – 14 cm)
- Primin free!
- Sturdy flower stems and long flower life



#### 'Touch Me' Large F1



- Flowering period: fall – spring
- Hardiness zone: 4-9
- Pot size: 5", 6", gallon (12 – 16cm)
- Primin free!
- Great shelf life
- No issue in transport





# PRIMULA OBCONICA (Touch Me) - CULTIVATION GUIDE

## GERMINATION

Sow seeds in plug trays filled with a fine textured peat mix with an EC between 0.7-0.9. Light is required for germination. It is not necessary to cover with vermiculite unless maintaining moisture is a concern. If applied, make sure to supplement at least 50 foot candles of light during germination. During germination, maintain moderate moisture levels, being careful to not allow seeds to dry out or become saturated.

\*Note: Primula obconica require higher temperatures to germinate than other types of primula. Temperatures of 65-70°F (18-21°C) are suggested during germination to improve uniformity. Starting in a germination chamber can be useful during this period and increase germination rate. Seeds should germinate in 7-10 days.

Once germinated, temperatures can be reduced to 63-65°F (17-18°C) and soil moisture can dry slightly between watering. Plugs should be ready to transplant app 8-10 weeks after sowing.

Fertilization can be applied once true leaves are present. 75-to 100- ppm nitrogen every third watering or 50 ppm of a well balanced water soluble each watering is recommended.

pH should be maintained at 5.5-6.2. EC 0.5-0.75. Primula are sensitive to high light levels. To prevent burning, provide 30-50% shade when natural light levels exceed 3,000 f.c.

## TRANSPLANT

Fill the pots to the rim with well aerated potting compost enriched with lime and fertilizer, pH 5.8 – 6.0 and EC 0.5 – 0.7 mS/cm. Use young plants with at least 2 to 3 developed leaves. Make sure that the plugs are sufficiently moist before transplanting.

## CLIMATE

Temperature: during the first 4 weeks maintain the temperature at 62-64°F (17-18°C), then gradually lower the temperature to 57-61°F (14-16°C).

RH: 60 – 80%. In all circumstances, ensure there is an active climate via ventilation or by using fans.

Light: during the first 3 – 4 weeks, set the light levels to 300 – 350 W/m<sup>2</sup> (21– 30 Klux), after 4 – 5 weeks gradually increase the light levels to 400 – 500 W/m<sup>2</sup> (34 – 44 Klux). Use a movable screen, net or chalk the greenhouse roof. In warm conditions (>25°C) use more screens to minimize heat stress.

## WATERING

After transplanting, water the plants from above for the first few weeks (moisture level 3 – 4) to encourage good growth and a good microclimate. Water preferably in the mornings so that the crop is dry before nightfall. As soon as the first roots are visible at the edge of the pot, the plants can be grown under dryer conditions (moisture level 2 – 3).

## FERTILIZATION

During the first 3 – 4 weeks use an NPK fertilizer including trace elements with an N:K ratio of 1:2, add calcium to the fertilizer regularly. Then, depending on the growth, adjust the N:K ratio to 1:3 or 1:4. Primula obconica is sensitive to high levels of boron, (leaf edges), fertilize with no more than 3 µmol/l.

Take soil samples once every 3 to 4 weeks to determine the nutritional status in the pot. Aim for an EC of 0.5 – 0.8 mS/cm in the pot.

## PLANT SPACING

Give the plants more space as soon as the outer leaves begin to touch each other. Only space plants in pots that are sufficiently moist and avoid heat stress immediately after spacing.

## FLOWERING PERIOD

The Primula obconica flowering period depends on various factors such as variety, temperature, light intensity, pot size and the season. Primula obconica flowers 19 to 23 weeks after sowing. In periods of low light (< 200 W/m<sup>2</sup>, < 10 Klux), providing supplementary lighting will accelerate flowering. Maintain a day length of approximately 14 hours.

## CROP PROTECTION

The following pests and diseases may damage your Primula obconica crop:

- |                      |                |                         |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| • Botrytis cinerea   | • Aphids       | • Whitefly              |
| • Erwinia carotovora | • Mites        | • Leaf miner            |
| • Rhizoctonia        | • Caterpillars | • Fungus gnats (Sciara) |
| • Pythium spp.       | • Thrips       | • Mice                  |
| • Phytophthora       |                |                         |

Apply preventive measures regularly and remove any infected plants to prevent an infection spreading.

Consult your local crop protection specialist for the correct products and concentrations.

Note: some crop protection products (active substances) can damage Primula obconica.

If you have more detailed questions about cultivating your Primula obconica, please do not hesitate to contact our Growing Advice department.



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