

Adventurous Plants

HOW TO GROW AMORPHOUS TITANUM SEEDS

How to grow *Amorphophallus Titanum*, 'The Titan Arum' from seed

Originating from Sumatra, *Amorphophallus titanum* is famous for producing the largest flower in the world (although technically this is an inflorescence made up of hundreds of male and female flowers grouped together). Equally famous is its smell of rotting meat or carrion, in common with many other *Amorphophallus* species, as a method of attracting pollinating insects.

Amorphophallus titanum forms a large tuber which can weigh well over 80kg when mature. Such a large reserve of starchy food is required to support the huge blooms and the tree like leaf. Obviously, the luxury of a very large heated glasshouse is required to grow a flowering size plant in the UK, but this is a species well worth growing just for the foliage and patterning on the petiole – as is the case for virtually every other *Amorphophallus*!

It is possible to establish leaf cuttings from *Amorphophallus titanum* for when your plant outgrows its welcome!

Amorphophallus titanum undergoes a natural dormant stage, therefore at some stage your plant will turn yellow and the leaf will die off. This is normal, and at this point it is recommended to re-pot the tuber into a pot 3x its diameter. It is essential that the tuber is stored in the compost during dormancy and kept only just moist.

Seed Planting Instructions

The seeds we supply have been sourced from a professional grower who supplies a number of botanic gardens around the world with *Amorphophallus titanum* seeds and tubers.

We send out the seed packed in vermiculite to prevent its very thin seed coat from drying out – especially important to help preserve viability.

Plant each seed in a 9cm pot. Use a light and 'airy' soil-less compost mix. Fill the pot to 2cm from the top, water and tamp down the mix. Press the seed into the compost and cover with a further 1cm of the same compost.

Always keep moist and warm – use of a heated propagator or heat mat is recommended. Placing the pot in a ziplock bag can help increase warmth and humidity.

An alternative method is simply to place the seed in a ziplock bag of just moist vermiculite on a heat mat or heated propagator. The clear bag will allow you to monitor the seed's progress. Once the shoot is visible, carefully transplant it into the same compost mix as described above.

Germination can take anywhere between 3 weeks and 3 months.



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