

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Medinilla was named after the governor of Mariana Islands in 1820, Jose Pineda Medinilla.
2. Medinillas, being native to rainforest habitats, need high humidity and warm temperatures. Daily misting with water is beneficial.
3. Standard potting soils (i.e., forest soil, clay, alluvial or mixed) that are used in production of forest and fruit trees should be avoided. Medinillas will die if planted in these potting media.
4. Seedlings are slow to start but once they grow to at least 3 inches in height, which may take 6 months, everything speeds up.
5. Propagating Medinilla plants needs extra care and attention. Plantlets were observed to be very sensitive to constant movements. Refrain from moving them especially during the growing cycle.

For more info
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PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES for MEDINILLA

Photo credit: Glen Velarde

DESCRIPTION

- Medinillas are botanically classified in the Melastomataceae family, with more than 400 recorded species.



LEAVES — simple, entire leaves, which can be opposite, alternate or in whorls; three to five prominent veins usually palmate and run parallel to the leaf blade.

FLOWERS — large, colorful paniculate inflorescences with 40 to more than 100 flowers in some species. Flowers have 8-12 showy stamens. Some species have huge bright colored bracts.

FRUITS — Each fruit may contain 50-80 seeds that may potentially result to the same number of plantlets.

ECOLOGY AND HABITAT DESCRIPTION

- Naturally grows at higher altitudes in the rainforest habitat.
- Evergreen shrubs or lianas; epiphytic in the wild.

DISTRIBUTION

- Distributed from Tropical Africa through Southeast Asia and the Pacific, with the Malesian Floristic Region as the center of biodiversity.

PROPAGATION THROUGH SEEDS

1

Collect the mature fruits immediately. Bats and birds are your competitors in the collection of the fruits.



Mature fruits are characterized by dark purple color and soft pulp. Immature fruits are still greenish or orange in color, firm to touch, and will not germinate.

2

Crush the collected fruits in a coconut husk and let it air dry. Place the coconut husk containing the crushed Medinilla fruits in an area with 20 percent light infiltration or a shaded area. Direct exposure to sunlight is not advisable.



3

Sow the air dried seeds onto a prepared potting medium. The seeds should germinate after about ten days.



*Preferable potting medium is cocopeat or crushed roots of *Asplenium nidus*. The medium must be constantly moist.*

4

Transfer the germinated Medinilla into prepared polybags with the same potting medium. Make sure that in one polybag, only one Medinilla seedling is potted.



Transferring Medinilla seedlings needs extra care due to their very sensitive roots. The seedlings may be pricked out and transferred to an individual polybag when they reach 1.5 to 2 inches in height.

5

Harden off the potted seedlings in a shaded area and water them everyday.

The potted Medinilla seedlings should never be allowed to dry out.

