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Giant Grenadilla

Passiflora quadrangularis

Climbing expert with huge blossoms

Worth Knowing: The spectacular and more than 10 cm huge blossoms, that come up during its third year, are the distinctive mark of the Giant Grenadilla. Its large pedals are dark red coloured and the corona is white and purple striped. The fast-growing sprouts of the plant with its strong stalks need a meshed climbing aid to grow and make the Giant Grenadilla to an eye-catching attraction that can be kept on your balcony or in the garden during the summer time.

Natural Location: The *Passiflora quadrangularis* has its origins most likely in Barbados, from where it spread to South- and Middle America.

Cultivation: Seed propagation indoors is possible throughout the year. To increase its germinability, you can place the seed in warm water for about a day for priming. Then, plant the seeds about 1 cm deep in moist potting compost, put just a little bit of compost earth on top and cover the seed container with clear film to keep the earth moist. 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 between 25°C and 30°C (for instance near a heater) and keep the earth moist, but not wet. It usually takes two to four weeks until germination.

Place: Plenty of sun, that is the formula for a rich and magnificent blossoming. Therefore, you should give your Giant Grenadilla a full sunny spot outdoors from early summer until late autumn.

Care: The Giant Grenadilla doesn't need any special earth, a permeable standard soil will be sufficient. To keep the earth always moist, a persistent and penetrating watering is required. If the soil is too dry, the plant will lose its leaves; but avoid waterlogging, especially in the saucer. The Giant Grenadilla has a high demand for nutrients and should weekly be given fertilizer for tub plants from March until October. Since the plant is quickly regenerating, you can prune back the longer sprouts any time between April and June.

During the winter: A strong cut-back of the sprouts to 20 to 30 cm is not problematic in late winter. The plant is now best kept in a bright spot with a temperature between 5° and 15 °Celsius, while here the soil temperature is of utmost importance. As long as the roots stay healthy, the Giant Grenadilla can, even while damaged on the aerial sprouts, shoot again in spring. If the plant is kept in a warmer place, it has to be sprayed regularly. In case the *Passiflora* casts all the leaves, they will spring again from March on. Keep the earth even during the winter moist, but water the plant in accordance to the amount of leaves it carries. The less leaves, the less watering is required. Avoid waterlogging to prevent the root from rotting away.