

Fraxinus species – Ash

Soak seeds in warm water for 24 – 48 hours before sowing. Then either:

Sow seeds in early autumn in good potting compost, barely covering the seed. Water and seal in polythene bag and place outside or in cold-frame (protect from mice!) to allow winter weather to assist in breaking dormancy of seed.

Alternatively place the seed in some damp peat/moss in a polythene bag and place in the fridge for 4 months, checking periodically for signs of germination. After this period, sow as above.

Germination can be slow and erratic. This is due to many factors, some of which are inbuilt survival mechanisms to prevent the crop from succumbing to a sudden change in conditions. 6 weeks out of the cold period is around the time you may start to see the seeds sprout, but this can extend to 12 weeks or more.

Growing on:

Plant out, either in the autumn/early winter after germination or wait till the following year. The seedlings will indicate that they need moving as the roots start to fill the pots. Those destined for use as bonsai can remain pot bound until training is to commence.

Initial growth is fast, so any training will have to start early. They are hardy down to USDA Zone 4.