



campanula



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Photo courtesy of Nurserymen's Exchange, Inc.

C. portenschlagiana 'Get Mee'[™]
Dalmatian bellflower

BOTANICAL NAME

Campanula spp. (cam-PAN-yoo-la)

COMMON NAMES

Bellflower, Bluebell, Chimney bells, Canterbury bells, Star-of-Bethlehem, Falling stars

DESCRIPTION

The *Campanula* genus includes annual, biennial and perennial plants. The flowers are bell-, star- or funnel-shaped, are 1 inch to 2 inches wide and come in loose clusters at the ends of long stems. These plants per-

form well in hanging baskets and window boxes and as ground cover.

COLORS

Most *Campanula* varieties are available in violet-blue, purple, pink and white.

DECORATIVE LIFE

Campanulas can bloom for two to four weeks in the home. They can live for years in the garden, providing customers added value for their dollars.

AVAILABILITY

Campanulas are available year-round.

varieties

There are more than 300 species of *Campanula* plants.

in-store and consumer care

LIGHT Indoors, display *Campanulas* in bright, indirect sunlight. Place outdoor plants in full sun to light shade.

WATER Keep the soil moist to the touch at all times, but reduce watering during the winter rest period. Irregular watering and drying can cause bud drop. Avoid standing water.

TEMPERATURE The optimal indoor temperature for displaying and storing *Campanula* plants is 60 F to 70 F. Do not refrigerate *Campanulas* because sudden drops in temperature can result in blossom drop, wilt or burn. During the winter, keep the plants cool, but don't let the temperature go below 45 F.

HUMIDITY Moderate humidity is required, so mist *Campanulas* daily.

FERTILIZER Healthy, fertilized plants are more tolerant of insect attacks. Be sure plants are well-watered before applying fertilizer, which should be applied at half rate sparingly during the spring and summer. Do not fertilize during the winter.

SOIL *Campanulas* will do best in an acidic, moist, well-drained soil.

GROOMING To prolong blooming, remove

flowers once they have faded. Cut the plants back when they have finished flowering to remove straggly stems and faded blooms.

challenges

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY All *Campanulas* are moderately sensitive to ethylene gas, and some species are more sensitive than others. Check with your supplier to make sure your *Campanula* plants have been treated with an anti-ethylene agent at the grower level or during transportation.

PESTS Several insects are likely to show up on *Campanulas*. Check frequently for spider mites, aphids, thrips, scales, whiteflies and slugs.



Photo courtesy of The John Henry Company

C. carpatica 'Bliss White'
Tussock bellflower, Carpathian bellflower

fun facts

WHAT'S IN A NAME The genus name "*Campanula*" comes from the Latin word "*campana*" for "bell," referring to the bell-shaped flowers.

FAMILY *Campanula* is a member of the *Campanulaceae*, or bellflower, family. Relatives include *Platycodon* (balloon flower), *Trachelium* (throatwort) and *Wahlenbergia*.

HOME SWEET HOME *Campanulas* are native to Europe. **sfr**



Photo courtesy of Bay City Flower Co., Inc.

C. incurva 'Heavenly Bells'
Bellflower, Grecian bellflower

Some information provided by:
Chain of Life Network®, www.chainoflifeflora.com
The Houseplant Encyclopedia
by Ingrid Jantra and Ursula Krüger
The New House Plant Expert, by Dr. D.G. Hessayon
Nurserymen's Exchange, Inc., www.bloomrite.com