

Blainvillea acmella



Taming the Toothache Plant: Easy Propagation Techniques for Blainvillea acmella

Also known as the toothache plant, electric daisy, or buzz buttons, *Blainvillea acmella* is gaining popularity in gardens for its unique tingling sensation and medicinal properties. If you're looking to add this fascinating plant to your collection or share it with friends, propagation is easier than you might think. This guide will explore the two most effective methods: growing from seed and taking cuttings.

1. Starting from Seed: A Rewarding Journey

For those who enjoy the full plant journey, starting *Blainvillea acmella* from seed is a rewarding experience. Here's how:

- **Sourcing Seeds:** While you might find the plant itself at local nurseries, seeds are more readily available online. Purchase from reputable sources to ensure

viability.

- **Timing is Key:** Being a warm-season plant, sow seeds after the last frost, ideally in spring. A warm, sunny windowsill indoors also works for an early start.
- **Sowing the Seeds:** Use seed starting mix and sprinkle seeds on the surface, lightly pressing them down. These seeds need light to germinate.
- **Water and Patience:** Keep the soil consistently moist but not soggy. Germination can take anywhere from 10 days to a few weeks, so don't lose hope!

2. Cuttings: A Faster Route to New Plants

If you're looking for a quicker way to multiply your *Blainvillea acmella*, taking cuttings is the preferred method:

- **Choosing the Right Cutting:** Select a healthy, non-flowering stem, preferably from new growth. The cutting should be about 4-6 inches long.
- **Preparing the Cutting:** Remove the leaves from the bottom inch or two of the stem. You can dip the cut end in rooting hormone (optional but beneficial).
- **Planting the Cutting:** Insert the cut end into a pot filled with a well-draining soil mix. Keep the soil moist and place the pot in a bright location, but out of direct sunlight.
- **Rooting Success:** Within a few weeks, the cutting should develop roots. You can test this by gently tugging – resistance indicates successful rooting!

Care Tips for Your New Plants:

Regardless of the propagation method, young *Blainvillea acmella* plants need the following care:

- **Sunlight:** These plants thrive in full sun to partial shade. Aim for at least 6 hours of sunlight daily.
- **Soil:** Well-draining soil is crucial to prevent root rot. A potting mix formulated for herbs or vegetables works

well.

- **Water:** Water regularly, allowing the soil to dry slightly between waterings. Avoid overwatering, as these plants are relatively drought-tolerant.
- **Temperature:** As a tropical plant, *Blainvillea acmella* prefers warm temperatures and will not tolerate frost. Bring them indoors or provide protection during colder months.

Propagating Your Own Buzz:

Blainvillea acmella, with its unique sensory experience and potential health benefits, is a fascinating addition to any garden. By following these simple [propagation methods](#), you can easily share this special plant with others and enjoy its vibrant presence for years to come.