

## BELFLOWER PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Bellflower
- Scientific name: *Campanula carpatica*
- Perennial; native to temperate areas of the Northern Hemisphere
- Typically grows 1–3' high, although some varieties can reach 6'
- Alternate, ovate leaves are medium green in color
- Bluish-purple flowers grow terminally on upright stalks and bloom in July and August
- Many varieties are suitable for rock gardens or borders
- Some varieties used historically as culinary vegetables
- Hardy to zone 3

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers full sun or partial shade and well-drained media
- Tolerates dry conditions, but prefers moist media; water once or twice a week during dry periods
- Add a general purpose fertilizer once or twice per season
- Does not require mulching or protection during winter
- Should be divided every 3–4 years

### PROPAGATION

- Seeds can be sown directly into the garden or started indoors for later transplanting
- If sowing outdoors, wait until the soil warms in the spring
- Cover seeds lightly with 1/8 inch of soil; space 12–18 inches apart
- Can be propagated by division

### DISORDERS

- Slugs and snails
  - Chew leaves and stems
  - Remove by hand
- Root rot (*Rhizoctonia solani*)
  - Leaves turn yellow
  - Provide good soil aeration and drainage
  - Remove infected plants
- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
  - White coating on leaves
  - Foliage will wilt, brown, and drop
  - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage

### CONSUMER CARE

- Remove flowers after they fade to encourage a longer flowering season

- Check requirements and recommendations for a specific variety before purchasing
- If growing for culinary purposes, do not allow plants to flower

## CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Campanula carpatica*
  - 'Deep Blue Clips': deep blue flowers
  - 'White Clips': white flowers
- *Campanula garganica*
  - 'Dickson's Gold': lavender-blue flowers, golden foliage
- *Campanula glomerata*
  - 'Superba Blue': deep violet flowers
  - 'Kent Belle': glossy purple flowers
- *Campanula persicifolia*
  - 'Blue': China blue flowers
- *Campanula portenschlagiana*
  - 'Birch's Hybrid': dwarf variety, long-blooming, sky blue flowers
- *Campanula poscharskyana*
  - 'Blue Waterfall': low-growing spreader; deep blue flowers with white centers

- *Campanula punctata*
  - 'Cherry Bells': cherry red flowers hang from arching stems

## References

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campanula>  
<http://www.plantfacts.com/Family/Campanulaceae/Campanula.carpatica.shtml>  
<http://www.gardenersnet.com/flower/bell-flower.htm>  
<http://www.farm-garden.com/perennials/bell-flower>  
<http://www.botany.com/campanula.html>

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