



STORAGE AND PRE-SPROUTING - While the bulbs were still dormant and asleep in the dry and warm earth on a bulb farm in Sicily (most southern part of Europe) they were dug up, but kept at the same conditions; dry and warm.

During selecting, packing and shipping, the bulbs were kept warm and dry. The bulbs remain in the same state until awakened by a big and long soak. The best way to activate the bulb is to soak them in slowly running water. This pre-germination stage should take place as follows: Soak or shower the bulbs in water for a minimum of 4 hours. To maintain levels of oxygen, slow running water is recommended or change water during process. Water temperature should **not** be warmer than 55F. After this initial soak, soak for an additional 2 minutes in a preventative fungicide. Once soak is completed the bulbs should be stored in perforated plastic bags or crates in vermiculite, peat or washed coco coir. Orient the bulbs so that all sprouts face up during germination process. Store the bulbs for 2 weeks in a 55F (12.5C). Bulbs need to remain moist, **but not wet**. Keep bulbs from drying out.

Following two weeks of pre-sprouting, sprouts and roots will be about 1" long. Bulbs can be planted at this point, but when temperatures in greenhouse are still too warm, bulbs can be kept for another week or two at 48F (9C).



SEASON EXTENDER - If (soil) temperatures are still too warm, these sprouts can be planted in #72 cells or pots and kept in a cooler or cool room for about another 2 weeks (very limited amount of light required). Plant sprouts just below surface. Keep the soil moist, but not wet. Ideal storage temperature is around 48F (9C) and humid.

After two weeks, young plants need to be planted in bright greenhouse or tunnel. Soil temperature needs to remain below 55F (13C) all along the growing cycle. Long periods of warmer soil temperature will trigger the plant to die back into dormancy, just like warm spring would do.



By providing the chill period bulbs can be planted much earlier than 'normal'. If October 1st would be the normal time when soil temperatures can be kept below 55F (13C) easily, this process can be started up to 6 weeks prior. Your production should start about a month earlier.

By simulating a winter condition by providing enough light, but shorter days, while keeping soil temperature below 55F, ranunculus can still be grown. Growers that grow

in such 'artificial microclimate' can grow ranunculus for most parts of the year and plant every 3 or 4 weeks.

To extend the season more, use a larger sized ranunculus (5/7) and start them as mentioned above. Make sure to plant the bulb of plant in raised beds with good drainage. In order to succeed, soil temperatures are to remain as cool as possible (below 55F / 13C). Soil can be cooled by providing shade and irrigation of cold water. Irrigation early morning is recommended so the cold water keep the soil cool. Do not make the soil too wet; drainage and raised beds is very important.

Please note that this will only work if you are in an area where night temperatures naturally dip down below 55F during the growing season. If temperatures remain well above 60F, artificial cooling is required. We can help you select the varieties that have better height. Please note that the plants will not be as productive as during the normal growing season. However, you should be able to sell the flowers at a much higher price. As with everything, test this out first to see if it works with your set-up/climate.



Notes:



Pre-sprouting:

Ranunculus will only sprout best when fingers are pointed down. A ranunculus planted upside down will rot and die. Anemone will do much better with their point facing down. And always, moist, not wet. Following soaking, the bulbs are literally swollen with water. Planting them in a just-moist medium encourages them to root out in search of water. A too-wet medium will cause rot. During the pre-sprouting period, check the sprouting medium to ensure proper moisture level and discard any bulbs showing signs of mold or rot. Add moisture or dry medium as necessary to maintain proper moisture level.

Harvest and Post-Harvest:

Ranunculus and Anemone will open during the day and close at night. Ideal cutting stage is when flower is closed (early morning) after the 3rd day of

opening. Keep flowers dark, cold and store in clean water, preferably with flower food.

Pulling the stem from the bulb, rather than cutting the stem, may stimulate the plant to produce a new flower. However, be careful not to pull too hard as the whole plant may come out.

Ranunculus foliage may transpire a lot in flower sleeves. That's why we suggest using 'hot needle' sleeves, or paper or fabric sleeves so foliage can breathe. Especially for long distance shipping, this may avoid a major disappointment.

Disclaimer: While we try to give you the best recommendations, many factors may result in a different outcome. Onings or Biancheri Creations cannot be held responsible, while we welcome you to contact us for any question or remark. We are fully committed to support you any way we can in order to achieve the best possible result. All varieties Onings offers are grown by Biancheri Creations (Italy). All varieties are protected by Plant Breeders Rights (PBR). Any customer that orders bulbs from us agrees formally and irrevocably that bulbs will only be used for the production of cut flowers and understand that Cloni® ranunculus bulbs must be destroyed after the first growing season and cannot be reused or sold. Propagation and/or selling without express permission is strictly forbidden.

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