

# *Bessera elegans*

Coral Drops

Matthew Holton

- *Bessera elegans* is a desert bulb plant, native to Northern Mexico and Texas.
- It is in the Alliaceae family, which is the Onion family.
- It is a flower that is roughly 18-24" tall, with up to 30 flowers on a single plant.



<http://www.blomsbulbs.com/products/31-Spring-2012-collection>  
[Above picture]

<http://www.visionspictures.com/image/28780> [Right picture]



# Cultural Requirements

- Hardy to zones 8-11, and requires a semi-droughty environment.
- Has been found in a wide range of soil pH's, from 6.1-7.8.
- Requires a well-drained medium to thrive.
- DOES NOT TOLERATE FROST

# My Experiment

- Determining germination and transplant success.
- 70 seeds sown into a 288-plug tray during week 10. No germination until week 15.
- Seedlings are continuing to shoot up even 3 weeks after removal from mist house.
- Emergence at this point roughly at 50%.

# Production Schedule

- Should be propagated vegetatively.
- Bulbs should be split, and planted into 6” pots in March.
- Watering is very important. **AVOID WET FEET!**
- Roughly 16 weeks from potting – flowering.
- A target sales date should be set for July-August.
- Bulbs need to be stored dry over the winter.

# Potential Uses

- Currently grown as an exotic indoor potted plant by unique plant enthusiasts.
- Potential landscape plant for desert areas that are free of frost and winter rain.

# Potential Holiday Sales

- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July!



<http://www.yougrowgirl.com>



[http://www.thethirddimension.net/images/view/red\\_fireworks-1366x768.html](http://www.thethirddimension.net/images/view/red_fireworks-1366x768.html)



# Room for Improvement

- Breeding improvements for germination success and uniformity
- Tolerance to frost damage

# Works Cited

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- Questions?