

campanula



Campanula portenschlagiana
Dalmatian bellflower



Campanula carpatica
Carpathian bellflower, Tussock bellflower

BOTANICAL NAME

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

COMMON NAMES

Bellflower, Canterbury bells

DESCRIPTION

Depending on species, potted *Campanulas* sport a variety of habits.

- tall and upright

(Canterbury bells/*C. Medium*)

- low and mounded (Dalmatian bellflower/*C. portenschlagiana*)

- vining (Italian bellflower/*C. isophylla*)

Blooms are bell, star or funnel shaped, and there are both small-flowered (Dalmatian bellflower/*C. portenschlagiana*) and large-flowered species (*C. isophylla*, 1 inch to 1.5 inches in diameter, and *C. incurva* x *Medium*, 1 inch to 2 inches long).

COLORS

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

DECORATIVE LIFE

Campanulas can bloom for two to four weeks in the home, and because most species grown as houseplants are cold-hardy perennials, these plants can live for years in the garden following their stints as indoor pot plants.

AVAILABILITY

Campanulas are available year-round.

in-store and consumer care

LIGHT Indoors, display *Campanulas* in bright, indirect sunlight. Outdoors, place plants in sunny locations in cooler zones and in lightly shaded locations in warmer zones. Avoid full sun in the afternoons.

WATER Keep the soil moist to the touch at all times, but reduce watering during the winter dormancy period. Irregular watering and underwatering can cause bud drop. Do not allow pots to sit in water.

TEMPERATURE The optimal indoor temperature range for *Campanula* plants is 60 F to 70 F; outdoors, 40 F to 90 F

HUMIDITY Moderate humidity is required, so in dry environments, occasionally mist *Campanula* plants or the air around them.

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY *Campanulas*' sensitivity to ethylene gas varies by species and cultivar. To be safe, make sure all your purchases are treated with an anti-ethylene agent at the grower or during shipping.

FERTILIZER Plant food typically is not required during the initial indoor blooming cycle. If plants are transplanted outdoors, apply liquid fertilizer at half

dosage every two weeks during the spring and summer. Water plants before applying plant food.

SOIL *Campanulas* require a well-draining potting mix, such as a peat moss, soil and sand mixture.

REBLOOMING/GROOMING Indoors, remove blooms as they fade, and once flowering is complete, cut back stems, keep plants in a cool location and keep soil fairly dry. You also can transplant *Campanulas* outdoors (see "Light" at the beginning of this section), where they will flower from spring through summer and go dormant in winter. To encourage continuous blooming outdoors, occasionally cut back stems after blooms have faded.

challenges

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

fun facts

WHAT'S IN A NAME The genus name *Campanula* comes from the Latin word "campana," meaning bell, in reference 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* (bluebells).

HOME SWEET HOME *Campanulas* are native to many temperate regions throughout the Northern Hemisphere, but primarily the Mediterranean region of Europe, from Western Europe through the Balkan States (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania). **sf**

