



## The Porch is my Greenhouse

I grow my Cacti and Succulents in a glass roofed porch size 9ft X 5ft 3". Currently I have 92 plants plus seedlings. A few cacti and the remainder being *Lithops*, *Dinteranthus*, *Cheiridopsis*, *Lapidaria*, *Pleiospilos*, *Graptopetallum* plus a couple of *Echeveria*.

This year I started my seed sowing in January (perhaps too early) but am pleased overall with the results. I use a simple Sinclair 8W propagator and now have 25 *Lithops karasmontana Lericheana* seedlings, 20 *Lithops herreri*, 4 *Lithops verruculosa* (Rose of Texas), 4 *Lithops optica*, 192 *Dinteranthus vanzylii* De Rust - thank you MSG - , 5 *Gibbaeum velutinum* and 25 *Astrophytum myriostigma*. All watered from the bottom using rain water from a water butt.

As the porch faces South East, temperatures each day over the last 10 days up until 1pm have been far too high. On Sunday 6 June it was 40°C at 7.45am!

My main interest is now in MESEMBS and have a growing collection of 17 species of *Lithops*.

I have tried a number of substrates for my seedlings and the most successful to date has been a Bonsai cutting mix which is 30% crushed lava rock + 30% pumice + 30% Akadama plus 10% Zeolite. (This can be purchased from Beecham Bonsai in 1 litre bags).

I have included a few pics of Cacti in flower and two of *Lithops* and *Dinteranthus* seedlings.

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