

Escapade F₁ Series Plumbago

High-Performance, Seed-Sown Series Features the Best White & the In-Demand Blue!

■ This **seed-propagated, F₁ hybrid** plumbago series offers an easier-to-grow plumbago than vegetative varieties. Eliminates the need to maintain stock plants for vegetative production.

■ **More compact and better branching** than vegetative plumbagos, **Escapade** plumbagos produce a **bushy shrub** with a horizontal spreading to slightly pendulous branching habit. The plants branch best under bright light and warm temperatures.

■ Best suited to warm climates, **Escapade** plumbagos **thrive in high heat, and both high and low soil moisture**.

■ In frost-free areas (Zones 9 to 11), the **Escapade** varieties work well in mixed containers and also create informal hedges 4 to 6 ft. (1.2 to 1.8 m) tall, with a slightly greater spread. Growers in these areas will see best results offering **Escapade** plants in 1 to 2-gallon containers (8 to 10-in./20 to 25-cm standard pots).

■ In cooler locations, **Escapade** plumbagos are best grown in the greenhouse and set out as a patio container plant in late Spring. **Escapade** plumbagos are an ideal “**Season Extender**” series.

■ Outstanding **Escapade White** has **bright white blooms** on plants that are slightly shorter but wider than **Escapade Blue**. Plants grow 12 to 16 in. (30 to 40 cm) tall and 22 to 26 in. (55 to 65 cm) wide in northern gardens.

■ **Escapade Blue** shows off **bright sky blue flowers** – this is a deeper color than other blue plumbagos now on the market. Northern garden height is 14 to 18 in. (35 to 45 cm), with a spread of 18 to 20 in. (45 to 50 cm).

■ High-performance **Escapade** plumbago seed is sold with a minimum germination standard of 90%. Contact your local distributor or call PanAmerican Seed at 800 231-4868 for ordering information today.

P. auriculata

Approximate seed count: 2,400 S./oz. (85 S./g)

Germination

Seed may be germinated either on the bench or in a germination chamber.

Plug Tray Size

Plumbago cotyledons are very large – the smallest recommended plug tray is a 400-cell size.

Media

Maintain soil pH at 5.8 to 6.2.

Sowing

Plumbago seeds are very large and must be covered lightly with coarse vermiculite or growing medium at sowing to retain moisture during germination.

Temperature

72° to 75°F (22° to 24°C).

Humidity

Maintain relative humidity at approximately 95% or higher.

Light

Light is not required for germination.

Plug Production

Temperature

Keep soil temperature at 70°F (21°C).

Light

Supplemental lighting is helpful in shortening the plug crop production time.

Fertilizer

Feed from Stage 2 on with 100 ppm complete fertilizer, 1 to 2 times per week.

Irrigation

Maintain medium moisture levels. Avoid wilting.

Plant Growth Regulators

PGRs are not needed in the plug stage for **Escapade** plumbagos.

Transplanting

Plugs are ready to transplant when “pullable” from the plug tray. Do not allow plugs to get root bound.

Growing On to Finish

Container Size

Escapade plumbagos are vigorous growers that can be finished in containers ranging from 4.5-in. (11-cm) pots up to 2-gallon containers (10-in./25-cm standard pots). Use 1 plant per 4.5-in. (11-cm) pot, and 1 to 2 plants in 1 to 2-gallon containers (8 to 10-in./20 to 25-cm standard pots).

Media

Use a media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.0.

Transplanting

Place the plumbago plugs at the same depth as they were growing in the plug tray.

Temperature

Maintain air temperature at 62° to 80°F (17° to 26°C) from transplant to sale. High light levels and warm temperatures promote the best branching.

Spacing

Space 4.5-in. (11-cm) pots on 10-in. (25-cm) centers.

Light

When sown in January, **Escapade** plumbagos will flower in May under natural days. For Fall flowering, the plants may need long-day treatment after September 1.

Fertilizer

Escapade plumbagos are heavy feeders. Feed plants weekly with 200 to 300 ppm N in a complete fertilizer. Be sure to fertilize thoroughly. Irrigation should run through the containers to avoid salt buildup.

Irrigation

Grow **Escapade** plumbagos on the drier side, but avoid wilting.

Pinching

Escapade plumbagos produce bushier plants when pinched. Pinching may be done one or two times. The first pinch should be done when the plants have developed 15 leaves. A hard pinch removing 5 leaves is recommended. Pinching will delay flowering about two weeks.

Plant Growth Regulators

Florel spray at 1,000 ppm one week before pinching will produce a bushier, compact plant. Always follow current manufacturer label instructions.

Common Problems

No major disease problems will arise if using good cultural and IPM practices. Thrips and aphids are the most common insect problems. **Escapade** plumbagos do not show phytotoxicity symptoms to any pesticides if used at the proper rates as specified on the label.

Crop Scheduling

Germination: 7 to 10 days

Finish time for 406 plugs: 4 to 5 weeks

Transplant to flower: South – 8 to 12 weeks; North – 12 to 16 weeks

Total crop time: South – 12 to 16 weeks; North – 16 to 20 weeks

In the Garden

Home gardeners will see best results when they place **Escapade** plumbagos in full sun locations. These moderately drought-tolerant plants grow vigorously during hot weather. A perfect choice for the warm South, versatile **Escapade** plumbagos can grow up to 6 ft. (1.8 m) tall to create a bushy, informal hedge, and also work well in mixed containers. In the North, **Escapade** plumbagos are best suited to patio planters, growing to about 12 to 18 in. (30 to 45 cm) tall, with a slightly greater spread.

PanAmerican Seed

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