

Sinningia Speciosa Planting and Humidity Needs for Regrowth

When tubers don't have any growth, tubers don't need any water. When tubers have a plant growing, they thirsty they are to no avail.

S.speciosa do not require any dormancy. S.speciosa are constantly growing, however some stages of the growing cycle do appear to be dormancy. The growing cycle starts with the tuber growing a plant, then the plant flowering, and then the flowers decaying. When the flowers are decaying, the tuber starts growing a new plant.

Do not store tubers, always replant them right away. When the flowers decayed, cut the plant, harvest the tuber, and replant & don't bag the tubers. To provide humidity, rely on the potting mix. Fit the pot with a wick and fill the pot to half full with perlite. Place the tuber on the perlite, without burying. Sprinkle 50-50 potting mix (half peat based potting mix and half perlite), loosely and sparingly, just enough to cover the sides of the tuber. The tuber top should have very little potting mix and mostly exposed.

Do not bag. The potting mix around and on the tuber provides sufficient humidity. Manually hand water and very sparingly. Top water once. Water again or mist only once a week or longer. Things should be on the dry side. When the plant grows, add more potting mix under the plant as filling the pot full. The half-full initial planting prevents too wet conditions, and also helps in keeping the plant supported if it shoots up a long stem.

If nothing happens in a month, the tuber should remain healthy and not rot because it is never water logged. Some tubers don't grow as easy. After a month: bag them! But keep things fairly dry. This is the only time to bag tubers.

When the plant has 2 or more leaves, you will notice the plant getting bigger day by day to almost a third. S.speciosa plants grow very very fast, becoming thirsty fast. Now it is the time to water by wick watering. Wick watering is particularly ideal during plant growing because it avoids dry periods. Dry periods are very detrimental for S.speciosa plants, stunting leaf growth and flowering.

Notes by Hector Wong, S. Speciosa hybrizer from Hawaii.