

# Escapade F<sub>1</sub> Series Plumbago

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

■ This **seed-propagated, F<sub>1</sub> 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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