

***Cosmos sulphurea* 'Polidor'**

Rob Cole

We grow quite a few annuals as colourful fillers for the garden and we can thoroughly recommend *Cosmos sulphurea* 'Polidor'.

The seed is easy to germinate (we sow it in cell trays, outside, in late March) and we plant out the little cell plants around the end of May in groups of threes and fives. By mid-July they have formed a twiggy 75cm bush of ferny foliage, and the semi double flowers are bright orange and showy. To keep the flowering going it is best to deadhead regularly, but we allow one plant to go to seed so that we can collect it for future sowing.

We bought our original seed from Thompson and Morgan, and other companies also have it in their range, but you will only need to buy it once as it sets seed readily. The seedhead is a bit like a little chimney-sweeps brush, the bristles of which are the seed. Let it ripen, and as soon as it falls to the touch, collect it and keep it in a labelled envelope in a cool place ready for sowing next year.