

Alstroemeria Jazze®

(*Alstroemeria hybrida*)

Germination

Cover seed with 0.25 in. (0.6 cm) of germination mix. Water thoroughly, to the point of saturation. Make sure seeds remain completely covered after watering. Soil pH should be 5.5 to 5.8 and soluble salts (EC) at less than 0.75mmhos/cm (2:1 extraction).

Plug Production

Sowing

- Sow seed in a 200-cell tray or larger.
- Cover seed with 0.25 in. (0.6 cm) of germination mix.
- Water trays thoroughly, to the point of saturation.
- Make sure seeds remain completely covered after watering.
- Soil pH should be 5.5 to 5.8 and soluble salts (EC) at less than 0.75mmhos/cm (2:1 extraction).

Stage 1A (7 days)

- Maintain soil temperature at 72°F (22°C) for 7 days.
- Place trays in a dark germination chamber.
- Maintain 100% relative humidity; trays can be wrapped in plastic to achieve this. Keep plugs wet through Stage 1.
- Ammonium levels should be less than 10 ppm during Stage 1.

Stage 1B (21 days)

- Transfer plugs to a cool chamber and hold at 42 to 45°F (5 to 7°C) for 21 days.
- Continue maintaining 100% relative humidity.

Stage 2 (14 days)

- Maintain soil temperature at 65°F (18°C).
- Reduce moisture levels once radical emergence occurs. Allow the soil to dry out slightly before watering for best germination and rooting.
- Keep soil pH at 5.5 to 5.8 and soluble salts (EC) at less than 0.75mmhos/cm.
- Begin feeding with 75 to 100 ppm N from 14-0-14 or a calcium/potassium nitrate feed every other irrigation when first leaves are fully expanded. Keep ammonium levels below 10 ppm.
- Irrigate early in the day so foliage is dry by nightfall to prevent diseases.

Stage 3 (14 days)

- Maintain soil temperature at 65°F (18°C).
- Allow soil to dry slightly between waterings to promote root growth and control shoot growth, but avoid wilting completely.
- Keep soil pH at 5.5 to 5.8 and soluble salts (EC) at less than 0.75mmhos/cm.
- Feed with 100 to 150 ppm N, using 14-0-14 or other calcium/potassium nitrate fertilizer. Alternate feed with clear water irrigations.
- Supplement with magnesium sulfate or magnesium nitrate (16 oz./100 gal.), 1 or 2 times during this stage.

Stage 4 (7 days for a 200 tray)

- Maintain soil temperature at 65°F (18°C).
- Allow soil to dry slightly between waterings, but avoid wilting.
- Keep soil pH at 5.5 to 5.8 and soluble salts (EC) at less than 0.75mmhos/cm.
- Feed at every irrigation at 200 ppm N with 14-0-14 or other calcium/potassium nitrate fertilizer.
- If direct sowing into a liner tray such as a 50 or 72-tray, add an additional 2 to 3 weeks.
- Do not let plugs or liners get rootbound before transplanting to next stage. Rootbound plugs will delay flowering.

The total crop time from sowing for a 200-tray is 9 weeks. If direct sowing into 50 or 72-trays, add 2 to 3 weeks.

Optional Liner Production (50 or 72-cell trays)

- If not direct sowing, 200-cell plugs can be transplanted into larger liner trays before being potted into final container. This should be done before the 200-cell plugs become rootbound.
- Maintain air temperature at 60°F (16°C) nights, 65°F (18°C) days.
- Maintain soil temperature between 50 and 60°F (10 and 16°C).
- Allow soil to dry slightly between waterings, but avoid wilting.
- Keep soil pH at 5.5 to 6.3 and soluble salts (EC) at less than 0.75mmhos/cm.
- Feed at every irrigation at 300 ppm N with 14-0-14 or other calcium/potassium nitrate fertilizer.
- Total time from transplanting is 3 to 4 weeks.

Growing On to Finish

Container Size

6-in. (15-cm) pots or large containers, one plant per pot.

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a medium initial nutrient charge and a pH of 5.5 to 6.0.

Temperature

Nights: 52-58°F (11-14°C)
Days: 60-65°F (16-18°C)

Light

6,000 f.c. (60,000 Lux) is optimum.

Daylength

Jazze alstroemeria flower year-round. However, the crop time is 4 to 8 weeks longer when sowing June through December.

Water

Allow the media to dry out slightly between irrigations. Alstroemeria have very fleshy root systems. Pots should be placed on a surface that allows good drainage to avoid root rot.

Fertilization

Feed with 20-10-20 alternating with 14-0-14, at 250 to 300 ppm with every irrigation. Maintain soluble salts (EC) at 1.2 mmhos/cm (using 1:2 extraction). Check EC every 2 to 3 weeks. Leach with clear water if salts rise above 1.4 mmhos/cm.

Controlling Height

Good height control is achieved when the plants are grown under the recommended temperatures. If needed, height can be controlled by allowing the plants to dry slightly after the roots have reached the sides of the pot. Height can also be controlled by withholding phosphorous and ammonium-form nitrogen.

Common problems

Insects: Aphids, thrips, whitefly

Diseases: Botrytis, Pythium, Rhizoctonia

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant in 200-trays: 8-9 weeks

Transplant 200-tray plugs to flower in 6-in. (15-cm) pots:

If sown June-December: 20-23 weeks

If sown January-May: 12-17 weeks

Transplant 200-tray plugs to liner trays: 3-4 weeks

Transplant liner to flower in 6-in. (15-cm) pots:

If sown June-December: 17-20 weeks

If sown January-May: 9-14 weeks

Green Thumb Tips

For the Grower

Remember these key tips for producing the best-quality **Jazze** plants: Do not let plugs or liners become rootbound, and soil temperature must be kept below 60°F (16°C).

For the Retailer

For the best quality at point-of-sale, provide **Jazze** alstroemeria plants with bright, indirect light indoors or partial sun outdoors. Remove spent flower stems by pulling or snapping the stems out of the soil – do not cut the stems.

For the Home Gardener

As an indoor pot plant, **Jazze** alstroemeria perform best in bright, indirect light and cool locations. To enjoy **Jazze** alstroemeria outdoors, plant in partial sun and mulch the plants to keep the roots cool. In cooler climates, **Jazze** alstroemeria can tolerate full sun. Remove spent flower stems by pulling or snapping the stems out of the soil – do not cut the stems.

