

Dianthus Floral Lace™

(*Dianthus chinensis x barbatus*)

Germination

Light is required for germination. Use a well-drained, disease-free medium with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2, and EC about 0.75 mmhos/cm. Cover the seed with a medium layer of coarse grade vermiculite at sowing. It takes about 3 to 4 days to germinate.

Plug Production

Plug Tray Size

Best produced in 406-cell size plug trays.

Sowing

Use a well-drained, disease-free medium with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2, and EC about 0.75 mmhos/cm. Cover the seed with a medium layer of coarse grade vermiculite at sowing. It takes about 3 to 4 days to germinate.

Temperature

Germination: 64 to 68°F (18 to 20°C)

Cotyledon emergence: 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C) days, 60°F (15°C) nights

True leaf expansion: 60°F (15°C) days, 55°F (13°C) nights

Light

Light is required for germination.

Humidity

Maintain 95 to 97% relative humidity during germination until the cotyledons emerge.

Fertilization

Beginning at Stage 3, fertilize 2 times per week with 50 ppm N. Increase the nitrogen concentration to 100 ppm after 1 week, and continue this program until the plugs are finished. Maintain the EC at 0.5 to 0.75 mmhos/cm and increase to 1.0 mmhos/cm at Stages 3 and 4. Maintain pH at 5.8 to 6.2 throughout.

Growth Regulators

Treat 3 week-old plugs with a foliar spray of Bonzi at 6 ppm for toning. One application in the plug stage is sufficient.

Plug Production Time

Allow 4 to 5 weeks in 406-cell plug trays.

Growing On to Finish

Container Size

Best grown in packs and 6-in. (15-cm) pots or gallons with 3 plants per pot.

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless medium with a medium initial nutrient charge and a pH of 5.8 to 6.5.

Temperature

Provide 60 to 75°F (15 to 24°C) days and 50 to 60°F (11 to 15°C) nights.

Fertilization

After plants are established, apply a calcium-based fertilizer or 15-5-15 at 150 ppm, 1 to 2 times per week. Dianthus require adequate calcium in their fertilization program.

Growth Regulators

Foliar sprays of 20 ppm Bonzi can be applied 2 to 3 times to control height. The frequency of application is determined by the rate of plant growth, time of the year and location. First application can be done 2 weeks after transplant, followed by subsequent applications at weekly interval.

Crop Scheduling (from sow to flower)

Late Spring/Early Summer: 9 to 10 weeks

Late Summer/Winter: 12 to 13 weeks

Post Production Care

TEMPERATURE

- Dianthus should be displayed in a cool, below 70° F (21°C) location.
- Optimum conditions may be difficult to maintain, especially if plants are displayed outside.
- Using a negative DIF will help keep the plants short and of high quality.

LIGHT

Dianthus prefer full sun to part shade. Part shade may be beneficial during retail display.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Insects: Aphids, Thrips

Diseases: Alternaria, Rust

