

## Ageratum Hyb.Blue Planet

**Family:** Compositae

**Use:** Cutflower, landscaping

**Plant type:** Annual

**Height:** 70 cm (28 in.)

**Spread:** 20 cm (8 in.)

**Seed count:**

6,000 seeds/gram (170,000 seeds/oz)

Seed count varies by variety and seed lot

**Seed form:**

Raw and pelleted.

**Germination:**

Media pH 5.5 to 6.0 media with very low soluble salt levels EC 0.5-0.75

**Stage 1: radicle emergence**

Temperature: 20-22°C (68-72°F)

Radicle emerge will occur in 7-10 days. Keep media wet. Do not cover seeds need light for a uniform germ.

**Stage 2: expanding stem and cotyledons**

Keep media moist, temperature can to 18°C (64°F). Reduce moisture levels to obtain optimum root penetration and to prevent fungal diseases. Prevent wet foliage after nightfall.

**Stage 3: development of first true leaves**

Temperature days 18°C (64°F)

EC 0.75-1.0

Allow to dry slightly between watering without wilting. Water early in the morning to allow foliage to dry before nightfall

**Stage 4: finishing/holding stage**

Plugs are ready for transplant or shipping.

Temperature can be dropped to 16-18°C (60-64°F)

EC 0.75-1.0 do not delay transport.

**Growing on:**

**Media:**

Select a well-drained sterile cut flower bed in full sun with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and a low nutrient charge.

**Watering:**

Initially, keep the plants well moistened and then water as needed. Growing too dry may result in red-edged or yellow leaves.

**Fertilizer:**

Well balanced calcium nitrate based formulations work well to build strong and healthy plants. Optimum EC is 0.7-1.0 mmhos. Avoid excess nitrogen as it promotes overgrowth, invites disease and reduces vase life.

**Light:**

Optimum light level is up to 7,000 foot candles/ 75,000 lux. Whitewashing the glass may be necessary May-September to reduce light intensity. Extending the photoperiod in winter to 16 hours is recommended to ensure sufficient stem length and improve flower quality.

**Growth regulators:**

Ageratum responds to: Daminozide, (Dazide, B-nine)

**Pests:**

Spider mites, Thrips, Aphids and Whitefly  
Control: common insecticides can be used, check for labelled products.

**Diseases:**

Botrytis blight, Rhizoctonia, Rust, Pythium, Powdery and Downy mildew.

Control: Use labelled fungicides to prevent and/or cure problems. Avoid cool and wet conditions.

**Single stemmed Culture:**

Space plants 10 x 10 cm ( 4 x 4 inches) apart in beds and provide support netting. Raise netting as the plants grow. Do not pinch the plants.

**Multiple stemmed Culture:**

Space plants 20 x 20 cm (8 x 8 inches) apart and pinch the growing tip to induce side branching. This will result in a heavy crop of high quality cut flowers.

**Harvesting:**

For summer production allow 12 weeks from sowing and 15 weeks for winter production. The first flower is usually removed to create a flush of flowers. The flowers should be well-colored before cutting.

Hem Genetics cultural information is issued as a guide to growers based on our own trials experience under Northern European conditions.

It is not intended as a blue print for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.



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