

<b>Cultural Information for:</b>	Celosia Century	Annual
<b>Common Name:</b>	Celosia	
<b>Botanical Name:</b>	Celosia plumosa	
<b>Seed Count:</b>	45,000/ounce	1,600/gram
<b>Optimum Germination Temperature:</b>	70-75°F / 21-24°C	
<b>Optimum Growing Temperature:</b>	65-75°F / 18-24°C	

**Temperature:** Maintain the plants at a temperature of 65-75°F/18-24°C.

**Light:** High light, full sun is best.

**Growth Regulator:** Not necessary. Do not pinch.

## Plug Stage – 4 weeks (405 / 15 x 27 tray)

**Stage 1 (days 1-10)** - Sow seeds in a well-drained soil mix and cover lightly with media. Provide a soil temperature of 77°F/25°C. Germination takes place in 7 to 10 days. Since the root system is very delicate, avoid transplanting by sowing directly into plug cells.

**Stage 2 (days 10-19)** - After seedlings emerge, place plug flats in a well ventilated area and reduce the temperature to 65-70°F/18-21°C during the day and 61-65°F/16-18°C at night. Fertilize plugs lightly with 50-100 ppm N. Over watering will promote disease; especially damping off and botrytis.

**Stage 3 (days 20-27)** - Maintain good air circulation and keep media EC levels around 1.0 to 1.4 mmhos (1:2 slurry). Celosia is sensitive to day length and any type of stress; like water, high temperature or root banding. Avoid stressing the plugs or else they can bud prematurely and cause stunted growth later in production. Celosia will bloom more quickly under short day conditions.

**Stage 4 (day 28)** - Plugs are ready for transplanting and be careful not to damage the delicate root system. It is best to handle Celosia by the leaves to prevent damaging the soft delicate stem. Also avoid deep transplanting to prevent rhizoctonia. Do not delay transplanting. Holding the plugs too long in the plug tray will stunt future development of the plant and might cause premature budding.

## Transplanting to flowering 6 weeks

**Media:** Select a well-drained media with a low starter charge. Ideal pH is 5.5 to 6.0.

**Fertilization:** Feed with 100-150 ppm N as needed to maintain the EC at 1.0 to 1.4 mmhos (1:2 slurry). It is important to supply sufficient amounts of Potassium in the fertilizer. A lack of Potassium causes smaller and abnormal shaped flowers.

**Cultural Watch Points:** Celosia Century must be kept growing vigorously in order to reach favorable size before flowering slows their growth. Celosia is susceptible to pythium, downy mildew, botrytis, rhizoctonia, aphids and thrips. Boron deficiency can cause deformed foliage and a witches broom effect. Celosia can also be sensitive to vaporized gases of certain herbicides like methylurea, methoxy, dichlorophenyl and dichlorobenzonitrile. Also, avoid low temperatures (under 61°F/16°C).

## **Scheduling from transplant:**

Jumbo Packs: 4 weeks sow sold green  
4 inch/10 cm: 6 weeks with color

**Marketing:** Celosia Century is excellent for autumn sales in 6 inch/15 cm. pots and gallons and can be sold in full color.

For Autumn Sales use the following sowing schedule:

- Sow seeds in early June
- Transplant to the garden or large containers in July
- Plants will begin to flower in August and continue in full bloom until frost
- [Century Mix is an All-America Selections winner in 1985](#)