

## **GROWING GUIDE – Celosia Asian Garden**

### **WHEN TO SET OUTSIDE**

Two weeks after last frost when soil has warmed.

### **PLACEMENT & CULTIVATION**

An unusual addition to cottage gardens of mixed summer annuals and an ideal cut flower—both fresh and dry, this spike Celosia has an interesting texture which has earned it the name of wheat celosia. Be sure to keep soil evenly moist and fertilized, as any check in their growth will result in stunted plants with small premature flowering. This freely branching Celosia is the star of container plantings too.

Water Use: Medium

Watering Details: Keep evenly moist—do not allow to dry out, but do not allow soil to become soggy.

Soil pH: Slightly acidic to neutral

Fertilizer: Scratch in a couple of inches of compost before planting. Alternatively, feed once a month during the growing season with an organic, all-purpose water soluble fertilizer. Scratching in a granular fertilizer is another good alternative.

Diseases & Pests: Susceptible to aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies that can be controlled with insecticidal soap. Provide air circulation and keep water off the leaves or water early morning to discourage any leaf spots. An organic fungicide, such as copper can also be used.

### **PLANT DESCRIPTION**

Plant: Sturdy, branched greenish-purple stems with lush green foliage, tinged purple to red.

Flowering: Spikes of pink, light in color at the bottom and deepening towards the top. If harvesting to use as dried flowers, do so as soon as they start to appear vibrant in color, so as to retain as much color as possible.

Seeds: Flowers will turn into seed heads containing tiny black seeds, about the size of a pinhead.

When to Cut: 1/2 florets have opened