

COSMOS bipinnatus

HYB. APOLLO Pink

60-5655

Culture guide

Exposure :

Sun-Partial Shade

Crop Time :

9-11 weeks

Garden height :

18-26" / 55-65 CM

Garden spread:

20-24" / 50-60 CM

Sowing method:

- Media;
 - Use well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.8-6.2. EC<0.75mmhos. Cover seed with a thin layer of vermiculite, media should be moist, not saturated.
- Germination stage 1 (3-5 days);
 - Keep media uniformly moist until seedlings are above the covering, media temperature should be 66-70 °F (19-21°C).
- Germination stage 2;
 - Dry down slightly to avoid stretch but avoid wilting, keep media temperature at 66-70°F (19-21°C), germination should be complete in 5-7 days. Fertilization can begin with 50-100ppm N from a well balanced fertilizer.
- Germination stage 3;
 - Allow media to dry further between irrigations to improve rooting and control stretch, but avoid wilting. Media temperature can be dropped to 63-66 °F (17-19 °C), light levels should be <3000 f.c. Fertilize with 100-150ppm N from a well balanced fertilizer, keep media pH at 5.8-6.2 and EC <0.75mmhos.
- Germination stage 4;
 - Practice good wet/dry moisture cycle avoiding wilt, maintain media temperatures at 63-66 °F (17-19 °C), keep light level <3000 f.c. fertilizes stage 3. Apollo is a facultative short day variety. Extending day length to 12-14 hours in the plug stage will help to prevent premature budding.
- Growth regulators;
 - Some growth control can be achieved naturally by good moisture management as long as the plants don't wilt. If needed, a spray of Bonzi (10-15ppm) will help to control early stretch. It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements.



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Growing on to finish: 4" (10.5cm) up to 8" (20cm) pots

- Media;
 - Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.8-6.2, EC 1.0-1.5mmhos.
- Temperatures;
 - Temperatures for growing on should be 65-70°F (18-21 °C). Growing under higher temperatures will reduce crop time. Avoid frost.
- Light;
 - Light levels should be 3000-5000 f.c. as a guide. Apollo is a facultative short day variety. Extending day length to 12-14 hours will help to prevent premature budding.
- Irrigation;
 - Practice a good wet/dry moisture cycle, avoiding wilt.
- Fertilizer;
 - Feed 1-2 times per week with 100-150 ppm N from a well balanced fertilizer, changing to a higher K fertilizer at bud formation. Keep media pH 5.8-6.2 and media EC 1.0- 1.5mmhos.
- Growth regulators;
 - Growth can be controlled naturally by good moisture management, avoiding wilt. If needed use sprays of B-Nine (2500 – 5000 ppm) or Bonzi (15- 30 ppm). It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements.
- Pests;
 - Aphids, thrips.
- Diseases;
 - Cosmos rarely suffer from disease.

Plug times:

288 plug	4-5 weeks from sowing to transplant
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Transplant to finish:

Container	Plants / Container	Transplant to finish	Total crop time
4" inch (10.5cm):	1 x plug	5-6 weeks	9-11 weeks
6-7" inch (15-18cm):	3 x plug	5-6 weeks	9-11 weeks

*Ref. , 12 July 2016
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