

# ***COSMOS bipinnatus***

## ***HYB. APOLLO White***

60-5659

### **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.



**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 pH5.8-6.2 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 |
|----------|-------------------------------------|

**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  
www.floranova.com*

