

**Family:** Caryophyllaceae  
**Use:** Outdoor containers and pot, suitable for borders and beds.  
**Plant type:** Annual  
**Height in pot:** 15-20 cm (6-8 in.)  
**Garden height:** 20-25 cm (8-10in.)

**Seed count:** 1,100-1,250/ gram (30,000-35,000/oz)  
 Seed count varies by colour and seed lot.  
**Seed form:** Raw and pelleted.

**Germination:**

Media pH 6.0  
 temperature 21-24°C (70-75°F)  
 EC 0.5  
 Ammonium based fertilizers are not recommended, use calcium based fertilizers instead.

**Stage 1: radicle emergence**

Seeds may be covered lightly with vermiculite. Radicle emergence will take place in 2-4 days. Keep media moist but do not overwater. Light is not necessary for germination. Dianthus is very sensitive to high salt levels in stage 1 and 2.

**Stage 2: expanding stem and cotyledons**

Keep media moist, lower night temperature to 18°C (65°F). Under low light conditions supplementary lighting is advised to promote compact strong seedlings.

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

Keep media moist. Temperature days 18-20°C (65-68°F).  
 EC 0.5-1  
 Growth regulators: Cycocel( 1-2 cc/ltr), Bonzi (0.5 cc/ltr) or A-rest.  
 Treatments can be applied at the fourth true leaf stage.

**Stage 4: finishing/holding stage**

Temperatures can be dropped to 15°C (60°F). Higher temperatures will result in more use of growth regulators to prevent stretching.

**Growing on:**

After 5-6 weeks plants can be transplanted, it will take 9-10 weeks to finish in the pack. Allow an extra 2 weeks for 10 cm (4 in.) pots. Media: a well-drained, porous media is best to prevent over watering. pH 6.0-6.5  
 EC. 1.0-1.75  
 Moisture: allow media to dry between watering, do not allow plants to wilt severely, this will result in yellow leaves and serious setback in growth. Light: Increase total light energy to promote early flowering, daylength extension is not necessary but will promote bud set.

**Pests:**

Spidermites, Thrips and whitefly.

**Diseases:**

Alternaria leaf spot, Fusarium wilt.

**Growth regulators:**

Dianthus interspecific is sensitive to:  
 - Cycocel, spray up to 5 cc/ltr. Some varieties will show leaf damage at high Cycocel levels. Also a drench of 3cc/ltr. will be effective.  
 - Bonzi as spray or drench  
 - Dif

**Scheduling:**

12-14 weeks for packs. Pot production, 10 cm (4 in.), may need an additional 2-3 weeks.

Sowing	Potting	Flowering
wk 2	wk 8	wk 19/20
wk 4	wk 10	wk 21/22
wk 9	wk 14/15	wk 24/26

**Advise:**

Ensure best light conditions especially early season and grow dry to restrict and harden growth. Transplant on time.