

Rudbeckia hirta

DENVER DAISY

Cone Flower

Culture guide

Uses:

Bedding plants, pot plant, mixed containers

Exposure:

Sun

Garden height:

24" / 60 cm

Sow time:

January for flowering in pots from April onwards;

April for flowering in pots from June onwards

Sowing method:

2-3 seeds per plug, can be sown directly into final pot

Germination:

8-14 days at 68-72 °F (20-22 °C).

Growing On:

Transplant plugs into 6" (15 cm) or larger pots.

Grow on at 60-64 °F (15-18 °C) day temperatures and 50-55 °F (10-13 °C) night temperatures. Feed weekly at 150 ppm nitrogen in a well balanced fertilizer mix.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 20-30 % clay, 1-1.5 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 0-2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-6 months), ironchelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.8-6.2. Field: loamy sandy to sandy humus soils with good drainage and good nutrition levels. Standard fertilization: 80-100 g/m² of a slow release fertilizer.

Temperature:

Grow at 18-20 °C 64-68 °F. *R. hirta* needs warm temperatures for the growth. Temperatures of 16 °C 61 °F increase the cultivation time by 3 weeks. Temperatures below 16 °C 61 °F can be a cause for red colouring of leaves. *R. hirta* does not tolerate frost.

Fertilization:

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 100-150 ppm nitrogen (at 0 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a potassium balanced fertilizer (N: K₂O-ratio: 1:1.5). Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency (above pH 6.0) apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times. Field: Take care of possible iron deficiency and apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times. N min soil value: approximately 130 g N/m².

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