

Aster

72ct Plug

Container:

Trade 1 Gallon Container

Finish:

10-12 weeks

When To Plant:

Early summer

Growing Temperature:

65-75° F days

60-65° F nights

EC Level:

2.5-3.5 pour through method

Vernalization:

Vernalization is beneficial but not required. Provide 10-12 weeks of temperatures below 40° F.

Pests and Diseases:

Aphids, Japanese beetle, chrysanthemum lace bug (Corythucha), green patch aphid (in greenhouse), western flower thrips, rosy blister gall (Asteromyzia), aster leafhopper, leaf and root-knot nematodes.

Impatiens necrotic spot virus, aster yellows, stem canker (Phomopsis, Rhizoctonia), rots (Fusarium and Sclerotinia), Botrytis blight, leaf spots, aster wilt (Phialaophora), Verticillium wilt, powdery mildew (Erysiphe), anthracnose, downy mildew, rusts, crown gall, black knot (Gibberidea), dodder (Cuscuta sp.), leaf gall, (Synchytrium, white smut.

PGRs/Pinching:

Pinching is beneficial to promote lateral branching. B-Nine (Crompton) at 2,500-3,750 ppm. Applying 1-2 applications 7-10 days apart should provide adequate height control. The first application should occur after pinching - once the new shoots are about 1 inch in length.

Holding Temperature:

50-60° F

Soil pH:

6.0-6.5

Fertility:

Aster are heavy feeders and perform best when a constant liquid fertilization program is used, feeding at rates of 150-200 ppm nitrogen. Use complete N-P-K fertilizers with the majority of the nitrogen being in nitrate form. Fertilizing with micronutrients is also recommended. Discontinue fertilizer and use clear water when flowers begin to open.

Potting and Timing:

Use a professional potting media with 20-35% peat moss for water retention.

Moisture:

Aster require frequent irrigations, particularly when they reach finished size. When irrigation is necessary, we recommend watering thoroughly, allowing the soil to dry slightly between waterings.

Planting Level:

Place crown just below soil level.

Lighting:

Short days required to flower.

Other Comments:

Cooler night temperatures (55-60° F) help intensify the color of the bloom.



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