

Nicotiana

Plant type:	Tender annual
Uses:	Bedding, plant and outdoor containers
Plant height:	25 – 45cm
Sowing:	Sow mid February for May sales and end of March/April for Summer planting. Do not sow before mid-February. 24°C. Do not cover with Vermiculite. Germination in 1 – 3 weeks.

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Sowing to transplanting	3 – 4 weeks
Sowing to flowering	10 – 12 weeks (for box bedding sow 6 – 8 weeks before marketing)
Ball 350 to flowering	4 – 5 weeks
Ball 230 to flowering	4 – 5 weeks
Ball 104 to flowering	3 – 5 weeks
Ball 104 to flowering	5 – 6 weeks (Affinis only)

Growing on:

Temperature	15 - 18°C until transplants are established then minimum night temperature 10 - 13°C. This will reduce stretching.
pH	5.8 – 6.2
Feeding	Use balanced N:P:K feeding until buds appear then increase potash application to develop flower colour. Growing media EC level 1.0 – 1.5.
Growth regulation	Established transplants will respond to Daminozide. Negative DIF treatments are also effective in controlling height.
Pack/Pot size	Cuba: Packs, 9 – 10.5cm pots, Perfume: Packs, 10.5 – 12cm pots, Affinis: 11-12cm pots, Whisper: 11-13cm pots
Planting out spacing	20 – 30cm
Advice	Nicotiana prefers to be grown on the dry side but without wilting. Water liberally and then allow the plants to dry slightly. Water early in the day to avoid wet leaves overnight which encourage fungal disease problems. Long days with a minimum of 10 hours light are needed to promote flower bud initiation.
Common diseases	Downy Mildew is seen as light yellow blotches on the top leaf surface quickly followed by a downy covering underneath the leaf. Protective fungicide sprays would be advised. Botrytis can cause lower leaf damage.
Common pests	Whitefly can be troublesome in early Spring. Aphids.

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.