

Culture Information

Dianthus

Seed-Raised Annual Dianthus

Plant type:	Annual
Uses:	Outdoor containers, garden and patio pot plant
Plant height:	10 – 15cm Corona 15 – 25cm Panda 20 – 25cm Festival 38 – 50cm Dash 40- 48cm Dynasty 45 – 60cm Amazon, Bouquet, Rockin’ Red 45 – 90cm Sweet

Sowing: January – February sowings will be ready for green Spring pack or pot sales in April or colour sales in May.
March sowings for Summer and early Autumn pot sales.
18 – 20°C.
Cover with an average layer of medium Vermiculite.
Germination in 1 – 2 weeks.
A pre-sowing fungicide drench would be recommended.

Approximate crop timing :

From Seed		
Sowing to transplanting	All varieties	3 - 4 weeks
Sowing to flowering:		
Amazon	Spring flowering	20 – 22 weeks
	April flowering	18 weeks
	Autumn flowering	16 – 18 weeks
Bouquet & Rockin Red	Spring/Summer flowering	12 – 13 weeks
	Summer/Autumn flowering	14 – 18 weeks
Dynasty	Spring flowering	18 – 20 weeks
	April flowering	16 weeks
	Autumn flowering	14 – 16 weeks
Festival	Early spring flowering	20 weeks
	Summer flowering	14 weeks
	Autumn flowering	18 weeks
Sweet	Spring flowering	15 weeks
	Late Autumn/Winter flowering	16 – 20 weeks
Dash	Spring flowering	13-15 weeks
	Late Autumn/Winter flowering	15 – 17 weeks

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From Plug		
Festival, Panda	Ball 350 to flowering	9 - 16 weeks
Festival	Ball 230 to flowering	8 - 11 weeks
Corona	Ball 350 to flowering	11 – 12 weeks
Corona	Ball 230 to flowering	8 – 11 weeks
Dash	Ball 104 to flowering	9 – 10 weeks
Sweet	Ball 104 to flowering	11 – 12 weeks

Growing on:

Temperature	Grow under cool conditions with a maximum temperature of 15°C. Optimum temperature 12 – 15°C
pH	5.5 - 6.0
Feeding	The use of a slow release fertiliser in the compost is popular for Dianthus. Alternatively a balanced 1:1:1 NPK liquid feeding will be needed from an early stage, changing to a 1:1:2 about 8 weeks after sowing.
Growth regulation	For pack and small pot production i.e. Festival, Panda, and Parfait plants will respond to growth regulators applied 5 - 6 weeks after sowing and regularly repeated when necessary. The taller varieties; Amazon, Bouquet and sweet are responsive to PGR's to control height if planting into smaller pots or where a short specification is required. Shade plants from bright sunlight after applications.
Pack/Pot size	Festival and Panda: pack, 9 – 10.5cm pot or 3 plants in a 1.5 litre pot Corona: pack, 10 – 13cm pots Dash: Jumbo pack, 10.5 – 13cm pots Sweet, Dynasty, Bouquet, Amazon, Rockin' Red: 1 – 2 litre pot
Planting out spacing	20cm
Advice	Ensure best light conditions especially early season and grow dry to restrict and harden growth. Transplant on time. Please see the PanAmerican Seed Product Information Guide for full cultural details on our full range of Dianthus.
Common diseases	Sclerotinia – if this occurs, it is best where possible, not to plant Dianthus in the same area the following year. Otherwise sterilise the area. Alternaria - leaf spot can occur on maturing plants. Treat with fungicide. Fusarium Wilt - yellowing of lower leaves before wilting, soil borne.
Common pests	Red Spider Mite, Aphids, Thrips.

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