

# Osteospermum Akila

<b>Plant type:</b>	Annual
<b>Uses:</b>	Pot plant, container and garden
<b>Plant height:</b>	30 - 40cm
<b>Sowing:</b>	18-20°C. Cover with an average layer of medium Vermiculite. Germination 1-2 weeks. Sow early February for flowering end of May. Sow March/April for flowering July.

### **Approximate crop timing (mid season)**

Sowing to flowering	14 – 18 weeks
Ball 142 to flowering	9 – 10 weeks

### **Growing on:**

Temperature	16-21°C Day, 10-13°C Night. Temperatures above 25°C may cause poor flowering or no flowering at all.
pH	5.8 – 6.2
Feeding	Balanced regular feeding. Maintain EC 1.5 – 1.75.
Watering	Keep plants on the moist side. Do not allow plants to flag from dryness.
Pinching	Not required, Akila is naturally branched.
Growth regulation	If grown cool, PGR's should not be necessary.
Pack/Pot size	Premium pack, 10.5 – 13cm pots, look best in a 13cm pot
Advice	Akila is “day-neutral” which means it will flower regardless of day length. Maturity of plants, cool nights and high light levels will promote more flowers per plant.
Common diseases	Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Phytophthora, Botrytis – provide good air circulation and keep humidity levels at 40 – 50%. Keep foliage dry going into night time hours. Apply appropriate fungicides as necessary according to label notes.
Common pests	Sciarid Flies, Shore Flies, Thrips, Aphids – scout plants on a regular basis and apply appropriate pesticides according to label notes.

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.