

Phlox 21st Century

Plant type:	Tender annual
Uses:	Pot plants, garden
Plant height:	25 – 30cm
Sowing:	18-21°C Germination in complete darkness for the first 3-5 days is required. Cover with an average layer of medium Vermiculite. Phlox are particularly susceptible to root diseases and a low rate pre-sowing fungicide compost drench may be useful.
Approximate crop timing (mid season)	
Sow mid February onwards with high light, long days:	
Sowing to flowering	10 – 12 weeks
Sowing to transplanting	3 – 4 weeks
The first true leaves should be well developed before transplanting.	
Growing on:	
Temperature	10 –13°C Night to 13 – 15°C Day. Phlox can tolerate quite extremes of temperature.
Compost	Use a well drained, disease-free soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 – 6.2 and an initial medium level nutrient charge.
Feeding	The plants need a constant feeding regime, staying away from high amounts of ammonium and making sure that there is not a salt build up. Fertilise every other watering with 15 - 0 - 15 alternating with 20 - 10 - 20 at 150 to 200 ppm.
Growth regulation	A growth regulator of Daminozide can be applied if necessary starting 5 weeks after sowing. With holding fertiliser can control height, and also the use of negative DIF. Pinching is not necessary.
Pack/Pot size	Pack 10 – 13 pots or try 3 plants/15cm pot
Advice	Phlox root systems are delicate. Transplanting should be done into well moistened compost. Watering in should be done with a fine spray. Overwatering is a main cause of problems with Phlox. Irrigate plants before they are wilted severely to avoid damage.
Common diseases	Root diseases Pythium, Phytophthora, Fusarium are common. Use of preventative fungicide against them would be advised
Common pests	Thrip, Whitefly and 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.