

Sunflower (Pot Helianthus)

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| Plant type: | Annual |
| Uses: | Pot plant |
| Plant height: | 30 – 45cm |
| Sowing: | Use a well-drained, disease-free media with a pH range of 5.5 to 6.0, and EC less than 0.75mS/cm. Cover seed with vermiculite or sand. Keep the substrate at a medium to medium-wet level during germination. Maintain 95 to 97% relative humidity until cotyledons emerge. Germination temperature: 20-22°C. Germination takes approximately 3-5 days. |
| Approximate crop timing | |
| Sowing to transplanting | 2 - 3 weeks |
| Sowing to flowering | F1 Miss Sunshine: 9-11 weeks Pacino®: 10-12 weeks F1 SunBuzz: 10-12 weeks Choco Sun: 11-12 weeks Sunrich: 9-10 weeks |
| Ball 104 to flowering | F1 Miss Sunshine and SunBuzz 6 weeks |
| Growing on: | |
| Temperature | 18 – 22°C day, 16 – 18°C night |
| pH | 5.8 - 6.5 |
| Feeding | The plants are high feeders. It is important to supply a regular balanced NPK feed, ideally at each watering. Increased Potassium can be used as buds develop. |
| Growth regulation | Is not essential, but in our trials Ballad responded to Daminozide. Plants grown under short days may produce a taller plant; therefore treatment would be more advantageous. PGR treatments will delay flowering by about 1-2 weeks. |
| Pack/Pot size | 10cm to 15cm pots. For larger pots a seedling may require transplanting into a 9cm pot before potting on into final pot. |
| Advice | Do not overcrowd the plants as this will cause yellowing of foliage. Reduce overhead watering as the plant matures. Crop time is affected by day length and temperature; higher temperatures and longer days speed plant development. |
| Common diseases | Pythium root rot - a preventative fungicide spray can be used along with ensuring that the growing medium does not become waterlogged. Botrytis - if condensation or water is left on the growing tip as the flower bud develops. |
| Common pests | Thrips feeding on leaves, petals and pollen 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.