

Culture Information

Aster Starlight

Plant type:	Annual
Uses:	Pot plant, container and patio plant, suitable for garden.
Plant height:	20cm (spread 30cm)
Sowing:	January through to May. 18 - 21°C. Cover with a thin layer of fine Vermiculite. Germination in 2 - 3 weeks. A pre-sowing fungicide drench against damping off disease would be recommended.

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Sowing to flowering	15 weeks. Sowing early January will give a flowering saleable plant by the beginning of May.
Seedling to flowering	10 weeks
Ball 230 to flowering	7 - 8 weeks

Growing on:

Temperature	13-18°C night temperature minimum with 18 - 24°C day temperature to promote vegetative growth. Gradually lowering temperature to 14 - 18°C once well rooted will give good plant habit, but onset of flowering will be delayed.
pH	6.0 - 6.5
Feeding	Regular background NPK balanced feeding
Growth regulation	Not always necessary, but plants do respond to Daminozide.
Pack/Pot size	9 - 10cm
Advice	Plants are very sensitive to over fertilisation. Roots can be easily burned by excessive nutrient content of the compost. Grow on a dry regime.
Common diseases	Fusarium Wilt disease (Starlight relatively resistant to wilt)
Common pests	Whitefly, Thrips

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.