

# 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

**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 :

<b>From Seed</b>		
Sowing to transplanting	All varieties	3 - 4 weeks
Sowing to flowering:		
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
<b>From Plug</b>		
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

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.

## *Culture Information*

### **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 and Super Parfait: pack, 9 – 13cm pots Dash: Jumbo pack, 10.5 – 13cm pots Sweet, Dynasty, Bouquet and Amazon: 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.
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.
Common pests	Fusarium Wilt - yellowing of lower leaves before wilting, soil borne. Red Spider Mite, Aphids, Thrip.

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.