

Geranium (Zonal) Fantasia

Media

- Use a light, well-drained medium with a pH of 6.0 to 6.5

Temperature

- First period of about 4 weeks, 18°C
- The temperature may go down to about 16°C after about 4 - 5 weeks.
- Mentioned temperatures depend very much of which week you start and light intensities.

Light

- Zonal geraniums require moderate to high light levels.
- Low light intensities can cause stretch.
- Do not put hanging baskets over Zonal Geraniums, as this will reduce light levels and increase the likelihood of a *Botrytis* infection.

Watering

- Keep the soil evenly moist.
- Water thoroughly, leaching regularly to prevent salt build up.
- On cloudy, dark days, reduce watering to help control *Botrytis* and stretch.

Fertiliser

- Use a balanced liquid feed.
- Maintain a pH range of 6.0 to 6.5.
- Be sure to monitor soil salts and flush pots with clear water periodically to prevent the build-up of excessive salt levels.

Pot size

11 – 13cm

Crop time

Between 7 – 10 weeks from a Paper 84 plug

Pinching

- Pinching is not needed for Fantasia zonal Geraniums.
- A soft pinch will encourage better branching and more flowers in larger pots but will delay finish at least 3 weeks.

Controlling growth

- Please make sure to check recommendations for plant growth regulators with your sales rep.

Disease control

- Geranium areas should always be thoroughly sanitized prior to beginning your growing season and between crops.
- Keep benches and floors free of plant debris and avoid any unnecessary handling of plants.
- Geraniums should be grown drier in the first few weeks to encourage root growth and prevent *Pythium* problems.
- Control *Botrytis* with good air movement, adequate spacing and late afternoon venting of the greenhouse to reduce humidity. Regular applications of a labeled fungicide are highly recommended. Under very humid/wet conditions, no fungicide alone can prevent the spread of *Botrytis*.
- Avoid geranium rust problems with preventative applications of labeled fungicides.

Common problems

Insects: Thrips, Whitefly, Leaf Miners, Aphids.

All Fantasia Geraniums are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock plants.

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

Problems	Causes
Plant collapse	<i>Botrytis, Pythium, Rhizoctonia</i> Saturated soil for extended periods of time (<i>Pythium</i>)
Excess vegetative growth, few flowers	Excessive ammonia in fertiliser Over fertilisation under low light conditions Low light levels and over watering; wet media
Foliage necrosis	Drying out between watering's Low pH High salts
Cupped foliage	Low pH
Poor branching, thin plants	Low fertilisation in early stages of crop Low light levels

Note: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions.

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.