

Lisianthus

Plant type:	Annual
Uses:	Pot plants
Plant height:	10-15cm
Sowing:	Sow November-February. 20-22°C. Do not cover with Vermiculite. Germination 8-12 days. Light is essential for germination.

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Sowing to transplanting	10-12 weeks
Sowing to flowering	November sowing for May – June flowering. 22-26 weeks.

Growing on:

Temperature	20-24°C day, 16-18°C night in a well-ventilated glasshouse.
pH	Maintain above 6.5. Micronutrient toxicities may develop if pH strays outside the 6.5-7.2 range.
Feeding	Limited fertiliser programme. Plants are very sensitive to over feeding. Recommended EC is 0.5 to 0.8.
Growth regulation	Never water in late afternoon. Allow plants to sit dry overnight if in need of water and give water the following morning. Pinching or chemical growth regulation not necessary. Sapphire is a dwarf (10-15cm) and very well-branched plant. Basal branching begins in the young plant stage 5-7 weeks after sowing.
Pack/Pot size	Individual plants need to be transplanted at about the 6-leaf stage into 1 plant per 10cm pot or 3 plants per 14cm pot. Do not allow to become root bound as a young seedling or plug. Use a rich, well drained soilless compost.
Advice	Plants are day length sensitive so early sowings should be avoided. 16-hour days are needed to initiate flowering buds.
Common diseases and pests	Plants can be susceptible to fungal root rot diseases. Preventative fungicide program would be recommended. Botrytis and Fusarium in high temperature and excess humidity conditions. Aphids, leaf miners, thrip and whitefly.

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.