

Ornamental Millet

Plant type:	Seed raised tender perennial
Uses:	Outdoor containers, garden and patio pot plant
Plant height:	1.2 – 1.5 meter
Sowing:	Sow in February – April for Summer flowering. 22 - 25°C. Cover with an average layer of medium Vermiculite. Germination in 1 week.

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Sowing to transplanting	3 – 4 weeks
Sowing to green sales	8 – 10 weeks
Sowing to plumes	13 – 16 weeks
Ball 104 to green sales	Delivery weeks 10 – 20: 5 – 7 weeks
Ball 104 to plumes	Delivery weeks 10 – 20: 10 – 12 weeks

Growing on:

Temperature	Grow on at 19 – 21°C day and 18°C night. Higher temperatures will result in faster growth and taller plants. Cooler temperatures will significantly delay crop time and will naturally tighten up plant growth/branching. Best when grown with a combination of high light and temperatures about 17°C.
pH	5.5 – 6.5
Feeding	Feed plants weekly with 150 – 200 ppm N in a complete fertiliser.
Growth regulation	Growth regulators are not necessary. However, they have shown some reducing effect on stem length and increase branching. Repeat treatments give optimal effect. One treatment of Bonzi, 4 weeks after sowing gives a slightly fuller plant. A second treatment 6 weeks after sowing gives a fuller, shorter plant. For a more naturally shorter plant with earlier plumes choose Purple Baron.
Pack/Pot size	10 – 15cm pots of 3 plants/5 litre pot
Advice	Keep light levels as high as possible which will result in stronger and thicker stems and more shoots. Young plants are green, but the plant will turn purple after about 8 leaves have developed. The foliage will turn dark purple when the plants are moved outside. Do not let plants get root bound. This can slow or stop the growth of the main shoot and influence the number of side shoots. Direct sowing generally leads to a bushier plant. Plant plugs slightly deeper than the compost surface to encourage good anchorage and “tillering”.
Common diseases	No serious problems
Common pests	Red Spider Mite

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.