

Verbena

Seed Raised Types – Quartz™ XP

Plant type:	Tender annual
Uses:	Bedding plant, hanging baskets and containers
Plant height:	15 – 30cm
Sowing:	Sow mid January – February for Spring sales. March – April for Summer sales. 22-24°C. Cover with an average layer of medium Vermiculite. Germination 1-2 weeks. For all Verbena species, sowing on rather dry compost gives the best results, water if necessary, after emergence.

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Sowing to transplanting	3 – 4 weeks
Sowing to flowering	12 – 13 weeks Quartz, 11 – 12 weeks Quartz XP
Ball 350 to flowering	6 weeks Quartz, 5 weeks Quartz XP
Ball 230 to flowering	5 weeks Quartz, 4 weeks Quartz XP

Growing on:

Temperature	18 – 21°C
pH	6.0
Feeding	Balanced regular N:P:K feeding
Growth regulation	Plants will respond to Chlormequat and Daminozide, if necessary.
Pack/Pot size	Pack or 9 – 10.5cm pot
Planting out spacing	15 – 20cm
Advice	Dry conditions are preferable for growing on.
Common diseases	Damping off seedling diseases. A pre-sowing fungicide drench would be recommended. Powdery Mildew.
Common pests	Thrips, Whitefly, Aphids, Spider Mites

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

Cutting Raised types

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Ball 84 to flowering 6 – 8 weeks (unpinched plant)
 Ball 104 to flowering 6 – 8 weeks (pinched plant)
 Based on 10cm pots, add 2 – 4 weeks for a 25cm hanging basket

Growing on:

Temperature 16 – 18°C 14 days after potting then drop to 14° - 16°C for growing on.

pH 5.5 - 6.2

Feeding Moderate to heavy feeding requirements. 0.5 g/l of balanced NPK feed at each watering or weekly 2 g/l. Keep growing medium moderately moist. If plants get too wet, plants will stretch.

Pinching First pinching 7 – 10 days after potting, a second pinching is generally not required but if necessary, can be done 10 - 14 days after the first pinch. No further pinching should be necessary as branching will occur naturally at the terminal flowers. Our Ball 84 plug is ready pinched.

Growth regulation Plants will respond to Daminozide. Growth can also be controlled mid-March onwards by using DIF. A temperature drop to 5 – 8°C from 2 hours before sunrise for 4 - 6 hours.

Spacing 30 - 36 plants per m² in 12cm pots.

Common diseases Good ventilation will help to prevent Botrytis. A preventative fungicide spray would be recommended for both Botrytis and Powdery Mildew.

Common pests Regularly inspect the crop for common insect pests e.g. Aphids or Thrips and use a control spraying programme if necessary.

Growing schedule

	Jan	Feb				Mar				Apr				May				
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Basket 25 cm	P	X		X							F	F						
Basket 20 cm				P	X		X					F	F					
12 cm pot				P	X		X				F	F						
10 cm pot						P	X					F	F					
10 cm pot								P	X					F	F			

P = Potting

X = Pinching (the Ball 84 plug has already been pinched once)

F = Flowering

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