

Cultural Details: **Cineraria Pot Production**

A traditional Winter pot plant, with daisy-like flowers in a range of bright colours, and requiring only moderate heat input.

Variety Selection

Star Wars is probably the best quality variety on the market, attracting premium prices for a well-grown plant, covered in flower in a large pot. For mid to late season production.

Jester is a compact, small leaved plant with a good colour range, again of high quality, with an earlier flowering period possible. The mixture includes many bicoloured types.

Amigo is a smaller flowered compact variety for early sales in smaller pots. Jubilee has slightly larger flowers and plant habit.

Programming the Crop

Sow **July** for **late December/January** sales

Sow **August** for **February** sales

Sow **September** for **March** Sales

Sow **October** for **April-May** sales

Propagation and Growing-on

Sow seed (4000 seeds per gram) in a well-drained low nutrient seed-sowing compost, which has ideally been pre-watered with a suitable fungicide, and allowed to drain. Do not cover the seed; light is necessary for germination. Maintain high humidity to prevent drying out - cover with clear or milky polythene. Keep growing medium moist but not saturated. Temperature should be 20-22°C. Using HID lighting to provide long days (18 hours) can reduce crop time by three to four weeks. If HID lighting is used, make sure plants are allowed to grow to an adequate size first or you can end up with plants that flower too early.

Plants need light feed. Start with 50-75 parts per million weekly from a calcium-based (13-2-13) fertilizer, then feed with 100-150 ppm weekly with a calcium-based fertilizer.

Move onto a plug tray with cells of around 2.5cm, when large enough to handle. Grow on at 10-12°C, then, once they have filled the cell, pot up into the final pot, which can be anything from 10-13cm depending on the final plant size required. Use similar temperatures; plants can go down to just above freezing without ill effect,

although flowering will occur later. Space the plants once foliage of adjacent plants is nearly touching, to avoid stretching of the crop. Temperatures can be raised a little to finish the crop once buds are starting to form. A light programme of liquid feed in the Spring will benefit bud formation.

Propagation and Growing-on

Disease problems include pythium, botrytis, powdery mildew, verticillium and tomato spotted wilt virus. Potential insect problems to look out for include aphid, whitefly and thrips. To minimise disease attack, maintain good glasshouse hygiene and keep good air movement through the crop.

Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.