

# Ageratum Blue Horizon

Crop	Ageratum
Series	Blue Horizon
Botanical name	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>
Plant type	Annual
Seed type	Pellet
Seed count	400 pellets / gr
Germination	20-25°C - 5 days light favored
Growing	15-20°C
Optimum pH	5.8-6.2

## Plug Culture: 5 weeks (288 cell tray)

**Stage 1** (days 1-7) Single sow pelleted seed into a plug tray filled with well-drained media. Ageratum requires light to germinate so lightly cover with coarse vermiculite and maintain enough moisture to melt the pellet.

**Stage 2** (days 8-20) After emergence move plug trays to a greenhouse with high light and good air circulation. Reduce air temperature to 16-21°C and apply a light feed of 50-75 ppm nitrogen using a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation.

**Stage 3** (days 21-30) Raise fertilizer level to 100-150 ppm nitrogen. EC is 0.7-1.0 mS/cm (1:2 slurry). Allow the plants to dry slightly in between watering to reduce stretch and promote a strong, well-toned plant. Plant growth regulators is not recommended for cut flower production. For ornamental use in containers where height control is desirable, plant growth regulators with active ingredients such as daminozide, chlormequat and ancymidol are effective. Do not apply chemical plant growth regulators during flower bud formation.

**Stage 4** (days 31-35) The seedlings are approaching transplant stage. Reduce fertilizer to tone the plants

and prepare them for transplanting. Do not delay transplanting.

## Transplanting to finish (Cut Flower Culture): 7-10 weeks

**Media:** Select a well-drained sterile cut flower bed in full sun with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and a low fertilizer.

**Watering:** Initially, keep the plants well moistened and then water as needed. Growing too dry may result in red-edged or yellow leaves.

**Fertilizer:** Well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulations work well to build strong and healthy plants. Excess nitrogen promotes overgrowth, invites disease, and reduces vase life.

**Lighting:** Whitewashing the glass or shading may be necessary from May to September in order to reduce light intensity. Extending the photoperiod in winter to 16 hours is recommended to ensure enough stem length and improve flower quality.

**Temperature:** Optimum temperature is 16-21°C. Under low light conditions, do not grow too warm, (it should be lower than 15°C) in order to keep good stem quality and avoiding making stem too soft. Temperature is more important than a day length for winter flowering.

**Pests:** aphids, whiteflies, thrips, mites

**Disease:** botrytis and powdery mildew

**Single Stemmed Culture:** Space plants 10 cm x 10 cm. apart in beds and provide support netting. Raise netting as the plants grow. Do not pinch the plants.

**Multiple Stemmed Culture:** Space plants 20 cm x 20 cm. apart and pinch the growing tip to induce side branching. This will result in a heavy crop of high-

quality cut flowers.

**Harvesting:** For summer production allow 12 weeks from sowing and 15 weeks for winter production. The first flower is usually removed to create a flush of flowers. The flowers should be well-colored before harvesting.

**Transplanting to finish (Container Culture): 4-7 week**

**Pot:** For green sales in 10 cm pots place one plant per pot and plan on 4 weeks from transplant to shipping. Larger containers in color require 6-7 weeks from transplant.

**Media:** Select a well-drained sterile mixture with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and a low fertilizer.

**Plant growth regulators:** Plant growth regulators with active ingredients such as daminozide, chlormequat and ancymidol are effective. Do not apply chemical growth regulators during flower bud formation.

**Culture watch point:** Avoid using dicofol or captan ortocides on the crop. vinclozolin will damage the seedlings.

*All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on Asian conditions such as in Japan and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Always follow manufacturer's label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.*