

Godetia Grace

Crop	Godetia
Series	Grace
Botanical name	<i>Clarkia amoena</i>
Plant type	Annual & Biennial
Seed type	Raw
Seed count	1,500-2,000 seeds / gr
Germination	20°C - 5-7 days light inhibited
Growing	11-13°C
Optimum pH	5.8-6.2

Plug Culture: 4 weeks (288 cell tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-10) Single sow into a plug tray filled with media with little or no fertilizer. Lightly cover the seed with either media or vermiculite and maintain a soil temperature of 18°C with even soil moisture.

Stage 2 (days 11-21) When green appears move trays to a cool, bright and well-ventilated greenhouse. To ensure strong development, supplemental lighting (from 08:00 to 17:00) can benefit the seedlings. To prevent premature flowering and promote vegetative growth, provide short days (less than 12 hours of light). Optimum temperature is 13-15°C. Soil fertility directly influences lateral branching. High soil fertility promotes soft growth and side branching, which is not desirable for single-stemmed production. If the media does not contain any fertilizer, feed the seedlings one time with 50-100 ppm of nitrogen, preferably from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer. If the plug media contains fertilizers, additional fertilizer may not be necessary.

NOTE: Although Godetia does not require high nitrogen rates, it still is necessary to supply microelements at the full rate; especially boron at 0.25 ppm to avoid tip abortion and upper leaf edge burn.

Stage 3 (days 22-27) Maintain cool temperatures and use a negative DIF, if possible. Weekly sprays of daminozide will help to control plant height, but temperature manipulation has proven to be the most effective tool. A second light feeding of 50-100 ppm of nitrogen can be applied if the plants look yellow and hungry.

DIF is the difference between day temperature and night temperature which can affect plant height. In the natural world, positive DIF (when daytime temperature is higher than nighttime temperature) is common, however if this difference is made smaller, or in some cases negative DIF (nighttime temperature is higher than daytime temperature), plant height can be suppressed.

Stage 4 (day 28) Seedlings are now ready for transplanting or shipping. Seedlings should be planted immediately to maximize stem length.

Media: Select a sunny location with well-drained sandy soil that is low in fertility and has a pH between 6.0 and 7.0. Work the bed to a depth of 15 cm. Crop rotation is recommended to avoid problems with fusarium.

Transplanting to finish: 5-6 weeks

Transplanting: Godetia seedlings are delicate, so dislodge the seedlings from the tray by pushing up from the bottom. Avoid pulling the plants out of the tray by hand, which may damage the stem. To prevent stem rot (rhizoctonia), do not plant the seedling below the soil line. For both greenhouse and field culture, support the plants with netting and raise as the plants grow. Transplant 80 plants per net m². When sowing directly in the soil: 12.5 cm between the rows and in the row 8 cm distance between the seeds.

Pinching: Pinch one week after transplanting and wait one week to start lighting (long day treatment).

Fertilizer: Excessive fertilizer results in soft plants with and poor flower quality.

Temperature: Maintain night temperatures of 7-10°C, and a day temperature between 11-13°C.

Lighting: Godetia is a long day response plant. Therefore, the use of ordinary Chrysanthemum lighting is sufficient to induce flowering when producing Godetia under short day conditions.

Crop Schedule: For outdoor production in warm areas, sow in Dec / Jan for flowering in May / June. For outdoor production in cool areas, sow in Feb / March for flowering in July / August. Please note that in northern areas where late frosts prevent early transplanting, one should use a larger plug tray such as 128 cell, and artificially maintain short day conditions with black cloth. This will prevent early flower initiation and aid in maximizing stem length outdoors.

Harvest: When 3-6 flowers are open.

Post-harvest handling: Use of flower food is highly recommended.

*The inflorescence can last up to 18 days with each flower lasting up to 6 days. Increasing bud count is key to a long vase life.

Disease: botrytis, fusarium, pythium, rhizoctonia, sclerotinia.

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.