

Crop	Gomphrena
Series	Gnome
Botanical name	Gomphrena globosa
Plant type	Annual
Seed type	De-fuzz
Seed count	360 seeds /gram
Germination	20-25°C - 7 days light favored
Growing	18-24°C
Optimum pH	5.8-6.2

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

Gomphrena Gnome is an ideal garden plant in areas that have hot and humid summers. Gomphrena Gnome is an extra dwarf and compact plant that is easy to grow and carefree. Extremely basal branching with strong flower stems. Plant height is approximately 20 cm tall and is ideal for production in 8-10 cm pots. Gomphrena Gnome is available in pink, purple, white and mix with 1.2 cm flowers. Gnome is a healthy-looking garden plant with dark green foliage that contrasts nicely with the vibrant flower colors.

**Stage 1** (days 1-10) Single sow seed of Gomphrena Gnome into a plug trays using a well-drained sterilized media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2. Lightly cover the seed with vermiculite and keep moist at a temperature of 25°C.

**Stage 2** (days 11-21) When the seedlings begin to emerge reduce moisture and place in a bright and well-ventilated greenhouse. Lightly fertilize seedlings with 75 ppm nitrogen from a well-balanced calcium nitrate based fertilizer. Optimum day temperature is 24-26°C with a night temperature of 18°C.

**Stage 3** (days 22-30) Maintain optimum temperatures. High pH can reduce boron availability which causes edge burn and chlorotic foliage. Supplying 0.25 ppm of boron when fertilizing is recommended.

**Stage 4** (days 31-35) The plants are approaching transplant stage. Reduce moisture and fertilizer levels to tone the plants and prepare them for transplanting.

## Transplanting to finish: 5-7 weeks

**Pots**: Gomphrena Gnome can be sold as young plants or with color showing in 8-10 cm pots.

**Fertilizer**: Gomphrena prefers a well-drained soil.

**Light**: Gomphrena Gnome is native to desert areas and tolerates high light.

**Timing**: As bedding plants, allow nine to ten weeks from sowing for packs and 12 weeks for flowering in 10 cm pots.

**Marketing tips**: Gomphrena Gnome makes a nice component plant in mixed containers with Petunia Merlin, Portulaca Sunseeker, Vinca Victory and Zinnia Profusion. Ideal for borders and edging. Tolerates high heat and dry conditions.

**Cultural watch points**: Be sure to allow sufficient drying in between irrigations to avoid rhizoctonia.

Diseases: leaf spot, rust, damping off.

Pests: leaf miners.

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.*