



| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Crop | Gomphrena |
| Series | Ping Pong |
| Botanical name | <i>Gomphrena globosa</i> |
| Plant type | Annual |
| Seed type | De-fuzz |
| Seed count | 330 seeds / gr |
| Germination | 20-25 °C - 7 days light favored |
| Growing | 20-24°C |
| Optimum pH | 5.8-6.2 |

Ping Pong is ideal for knee high gardens in areas that have hot and humid summers. Ping Pong is an easy to grow carefree variety of Gomphrena. Strong basal branching with strong flower stems. Plant height is approximately 60-90 cm. The flower colors are a Neon Rose, Lavender and White, with a 3 cm flower size. The foliage is dark green making a nice contrast with the intense flower colors. A very healthy-looking garden plant. Ping Pong may also be used as a commercial cut flower either fresh or dried. Strong flower stems and good vase life with no problems with rehydration. Seed is sold as clean seed for ease in sowing

Plug Culture: 5 weeks (288 cell tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-10) Single sow seed of Gomphrena Ping Pong into a plug trays using a well-drained sterilized media. 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 and pH. A high pH (> 6.5) 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) Plants are approaching transplant stage. Reduce moisture and fertilizer levels to tone the plants and prepare them for transplanting.

Transplanting to finish: 6-7 weeks

Pots: Ping Pong can be sold as young seedling or with color showing in 18cm pots.

Fertilizer: Gomphrena prefers a well-drained soil.

Plant growth regulators: Plant growth regulators should not be necessary with adequate light levels. If necessary, applying daminozide at 1,500-2,500 ppm or chlormequat at 1,000-1,500 ppm is an option to control plant height and/or help tone the plants.

Timing: As bedding plants, allow nine to ten weeks from sowing for young plants and twelve to thirteen weeks for flowering in larger containers. For transplanting into 18 cm pots use a 128 plug cell and allow six weeks from sowing to transplant.

| Container | Seedling Stage | Finishing |
|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| 18cm pots | 6 weeks (128) | 6-7 weeks (with color) |

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

Cut Flower Production: Transplant actively growing seedlings into a well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Space plants 10 cm x 10 cm apart to promote all stems. Use support netting. Harvest with 3-4 open flowers.

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.