

# Platycodon Sentimental Blue

Crop	Platycodon
Series	Sentimental Blue
Botanical name	<i>Platycodon grandiflorum</i>
Plant type	Annual & Biennial
Seed type	Raw
Seed count	1,000 seeds/ gr
Germination	20°C - 7-10 days light favored
Growing	15-18°C
Optimum pH	5.8-6.2

## Plug Culture: 6 weeks (405 cell tray)

**Stage 1** (days 1-15) Single sow seed into a deep plug cell filled with a well-drained peat-based. Avoid using shallow plug cells. Optimum germination temperature is 20-22°C.

**Stage 2** (days 16-21) After the seedlings emerge reduce the temperature to 15-18°C and provide good air movement. Apply a light feed of 50-75 ppm nitrogen using a well-balanced calcium nitrate based formulation.

**Stage 3** (days 22-34) Maintain optimum air temperature and raise fertilizer rates to 150 ppm nitrogen. Allow the plants to dry slightly between irrigations to maintain a healthy root system. No growth regulation is required in the seedling stage.

**Stage 4** (days 35-42) The plugs should have well-formed roots and are approaching transplant stage. Transplant on a timely basis to avoid plant stretch.

## Transplanting to finish: 7 weeks

**Potting:** Select a well-drained peat mixture with a pH of 5.8-6.2. A coarse peat mixed with 20% sharp sand is ideal. Place one seedling per 10 cm pot and 3

seedlings per 15 cm pot. Be careful not to bury the plants too deep.

**Temperature:** Optimum temperature is 18°C during the day and 15°C at night.

**Fertilizer:** Constant liquid feed with balanced fertilizer at 200 ppm nitrogen. Reduce to half after flower buds are visible. Be sure to allow the plants to dry slightly between watering as excessive moisture causes root rot. However, do not allow the plants to wilt as excess drying leads to yellowing of the leaves.

**Spacing:** Pots can be pot tight until the leaves touch, about 4 weeks after transplanting. Then space at 30 plants/square meter.

**Plant growth regulators:** Pinching the plants 3 weeks after potting or applying plant growth regulator at 1,500 to 2,000 ppm / 0.15 to 0.2% as needed is effective to control growth. Applications of growth regulator can continue until the first flower opens.

**Timing:** Flowering will be around 105 days after sowing. The early development is slow. Plants may be pinched for a fuller look when the roots are ringing the bottom of the pot. Allow an additional two weeks crop time for pinched plants.

**Note:** Sentimental Blue is intended to be produced for spring sales. It may also be sown in early summer for fall sales. It is best to sow seed at least 12 weeks prior to first frost to allow the plants to establish in the garden before winter.

**Hardiness:** Sentimental Blue does best in a well drained soil and winter survival is dependent on an interaction between snow cover and temperature and humidity. In general, it will survive to -28°C.

**Special Note:** Growers familiar with perennial plant production may grow and market the roots rather than

finished plants. The roots should be half dried to facilitate transportation.

*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.*