

# Sunflower Vincent's

Crop	Sunflower
Series	Vincent's
Botanical name	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>
Plant type	Annual
Seed type	Film coated
Seed count	15 coated seeds / gr
Germination	20-25°C - 5 days light inhibited
Growing	15-25°C
Optimum pH	5.8-6.2

**Site Selection:** Choose a sunny site with good drainage. Sunflowers do best planted in soils with relatively low nutrient content. Soils with an EC greater than 2.0 mS/cm (SME) will cause the plants to grow too tall.

**Seed Sowing:** Sow seeds directly into beds (20-30cm spacing, 15-25 seeds per 1m<sup>2</sup>) and cover lightly with soil. Water the seed beds thoroughly being careful not to oversaturate the bed which depletes the soil of oxygen. For greenhouse sowings maintain a maximum air temperature of 25°C with a minimum soil temperature of 10°C. For outdoor production sow when the soil has warmed to a minimum of 10°C. Seeds germinate in about 7 days. 7 to 10 days after seedlings emerge, thin out leaving only the strongest and most sturdy seedlings.

**Note:** Vincent's are very uniform and vigorous in growth therefore it's better to keep the sowing window shorter than with comparative varieties.

**Temperature:** After thinning, maintain a minimum air temperature of 10°C at night, and a maximum of 25°C during the day.

**Fertilizer:** Vincent's require less fertilizer to produce flower stems of high quality. Fertilize with a calcium nitrate based formulation at 50-75 ppm nitrogen when it is necessary. Monthly supplemental drenches with magnesium sulfate (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) at 30 ppm magnesium (30 grams per 100 liters) are recommended to maintain a healthy leaf color. Water the plants only moderately to avoid overgrowth and weak plants. To prevent boron deficiency, apply 0.25 ppm boron in the fertilizer.

**Note:** Excessive nitrogen, especially in the summer, causes plants to grow too vigorous with abnormal flower shapes.

**Timing:** Flowering time will be about 55 days in summer and 60 days in winter and is related to day length and temperature.

**Note:** Vincent's are less sensitive to day length than other Sunflower varieties because they are almost day length neutral.

**Pests:** aphids, lygus bugs and whiteflies are the principal pests.

**Harvesting:** Cut stems when the flowers are 1/4 open with the petals perpendicular to the center disc, please refer following images. To ensure the longest vase life, cut the stems at the proper stage. Late harvesting will result in reduced vase life.



We recommend to harvest these stages depends on customer's demands

**Post-harvest Care:** Stems should be cut into and held in a commercial holding solution with a biocide or acidified water. Sunflowers benefit greatly from solution with a low pH (acidic). Sunflowers are prone to water stress problems so make sure stems stay hydrated. After cutting keep out of direct sun to prolong freshness. Store at 2-5°C for up to a week.

*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.*