

# Osteospermum x hybrida

## Cape Daisy® Zanzibar®



**SAKATA®**

Zanzibar varieties are characterised by earliness, outstanding uniformity and a compact, well-branching habit. It is therefore the ideal series for production in packs and small pots. The tidy, uniform habit makes Cape Daisy® Zanzibar attractive for growers and retailers

- ✿ Flowers stay open under low light conditions
- ✿ For pot and patio
- ✿ Very easy to grow
- ✿ Very even flowering
- ✿ Compact habit
- ✿ Good heat tolerance



Annual



Cuttings



Patio, bedding



Upright-mounding



35 cm



Full sun - half shade



25 cm



6 pack, 9 -12 cm



## Culture Guide

### Propagation

Propagation takes 3-4 weeks: Stick in pre-moistened and well-drained rooting media. Be careful not to over saturate the media as this will result in poor and uneven rooting. Ideal pH is 5.5-6.2. Make sure cuttings are vegetative with no flower buds induced in the heart of the cutting. Cuttings with induced flower buds will not produce acceptable quality young plants. Osteospermum is fairly easy to root but to ensure a fast and even rooting, the use of a rooting hormone is advised. Propagate at 18-20°C. Especially in the first 2 weeks Osteo. cuttings are sensitive to drying out. Therefore maintain a relatively high humidity at 95-98%. Osteospermum roots in approximately 12-14 days. Start to harden off as soon as cuttings have started to root to avoid stretching of young plants. Provide fertilizer at a low concentration. Ideally, lower the temperature and increase light levels to ensure compact and well-branched young plants. If needed, a spray with a PGR like Cycocel can be applied to keep the young plants compact.

### Pack & Pot Culture

#### In general

Osteospermum should be ready for transplanting 20-25 days after sticking. Yellow colours might need a few days more to be fully rooted. In order to have uniform plants at point of transplanting, it is possible to stick Yellow colours a few days earlier than other colours. Do not delay transplanting as this can result in undesirable stretching. Ideally, pinch young plants 5-8 days after transplanting. It is also possible to pinch young plants before transplanting, however, the best and most reliable option is to pinch after transplanting, once roots are at the bottom of the pot.

#### Media

Transplant in well-aerated media. Optimum pH for Osteospermum is 5.5-6.5 and starting with an EC at 0.75 ms (1:2 slurry).

#### Temperature

In North-West Europe, growers basically use two different ways:

- Start plants mid-Autumn and grow cold 3-5°C for finished plants ready in Spring
- Start plants from December-February and grow at 12-15°C for finished plants ready over a longer period in Spring. In Southern Europe, many plants are grown outside and nature dictates the temperature. In most cases this means rather cold but higher light levels compared to North-West Europe. Plants grown colder are harder and stronger and often have more flower buds than plants grown warmer. On the other hand, they have greater tendency of flowering in flush compared with warmer grown plants. The induction of flowers in Osteospermum is controlled by lower temperatures. For good flower induction, plants need to be exposed to lower temperatures (below 12-14°C) for at least 2 weeks. Temperature drops of approx. 6 hours during night time are often enough to induce flowers even if day temperature is higher.

#### Fertilizer

To establish a good plant with a strong root system, make sure not to over-saturate the growing media. This also prevents fungal diseases. Allow the media to dry out a little between irrigations in

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order to establish a stronger root system, but do not allow excessive drying. The latter results in damaged foliage and flowers. Feed with a well-balanced fertilizer that includes micro-elements. The following fertilizer constituents are recommended: N = 100, P = 15, K = 114, Ca = 51, Mg = 15 + micro-elements. Monitor EC level, ideal for Osteo is 2.0-2.3 (1:2 slurry). Ideal pH should be between 5.5-6.5. High pH may result in yellowing of foliage due to iron deficiency. Varieties with yellowflowers are more sensitive to this.

**Lighting**

While Osteospermum is not photoperiodically sensitive, it prefers bright light. Bright light contributes to a compact plant habit, fast flowering and better flower quality. Use of supplemental light (14-16 hours, beginning at midnight) is beneficial for early Spring flowering.

**Growth regulators**

Depending on the temperature conditions, Cape Daisy may need PGR treatment to control the habit and the production of a good quality product. Cycocel is the preferred PGR to use for Osteospermum. As shown in the attribute guide there is some variation between the varieties that need to be taken in consideration before applying PGR.

**Pests & diseases**

In general Osteospermum is not very susceptible to pests and diseases, but Aphids, Thrips, Botrytis, root and stem rots can be a problem.

**Crop schedule**

Production time for Cape Daisy Zanzibar is highly dependable on the culture and temperature regime chosen. Expect a production time of 12-13 weeks when plants are grown at 12-15°C. If grown colder production time will increase. Space plants when foliage begin to touch neighbouring plants. Do not delay spacing, delay will easily result in stretched plants.

Space Recommendation:

10.5-12 cm: 35-40 plants/m<sup>2</sup>

*All information given is intended for general guidance only and is believed to be accurate. Cultural details are based on Northern Hemisphere conditions and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Application of recommended growth regulators and chemicals are subject to local legislations and manufacturer's label instructions.*

Attribute guide for Cape Daisy Zanzibar

Series	Variety	For 6 packs	10-13 cm pot	14-17 cm pot	Plant habit	Branching	Need of PGR	Earliness	Flower diameter	Remarks
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar Burgundy	Yes	Yes	No	Mounded	=	-	+	-	
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar Copper									
Cape Daisy	Glow	Yes	Yes	No	Mounded	=	-	=	=	
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar Pink	Yes	Yes	No	Mounded	=	-	=	=	
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar Pink Glow	Yes	Yes	No	Mounded	=	-	=	+	
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar Rose Bicolour	No	Yes	Yes	Mounded	=	=	=	=	Fits also in the Cape Daisy in larger pots
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar Rose Glow	Yes	Yes	No	Mounded	=	-	-	=	
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar Sunlight	Yes	Yes	No	Mounded	=	-	=	=	
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar Vanilla	Yes	Yes	No	Mounded	=	-	=	=	
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar White with Ring	Yes	Yes	No	Mounded	+	=	-	=	
Cape Daisy	Zanzibar White	Yes	Yes	No	Mounded	=	-	-	=	
							Excellent +	Much +	Early +	Large +
							Good =	Medium =	Medium =	Medium =
							Medium -	Little -	Late -	Small -
<b>* Attribute guide based on North-West European conditions</b>										
** Earliness can differ from culture, cold or warm culture. Indication in the attribute guide is an average over the complete season.										
*** Cape Daisy Zanzibar varieties are naturally more branching varieties than Cape Daisy										