

Gerbera jamesonii F1 Festival













SAKATA®

Festival produces many large, spectacular flowers on every plant. Plants are extremely uniform with a tight flowering window and can be produced in 8-12 weeks from potting to sales, depending on the time of year. A top performer for the grower, retailer and consumer and therefore a well-known and highly popular series.



- ✿ Highest percentage of prime quality, marketable plants
- ✿ Multiple flowers and high bud count at time of sale increases retail appeal
- ✿ Complete colour range
- ✿ Highly cost-effective series
- ✿ Colourful and very decorative pot plant for a range of uses

	Annual		Pot Plant
	Indoor + patio		Half shade + full sun
	Upright		300/gram
	35 cm		Coated
	25 cm		10.5-15 cm

Culture Guide

Plug Culture

- Stage 1** (days 1-5) Single sow coated or raw seed into a 128 cell tray filled with a sterile and well drained media with good aeration. A slightly fertilized peat with 20% perlite works well. For optimum results a pH of 5.5-5.8, an EC of 0.7 mmhos (2:1 slurry) and a temperature of 22°C should be maintained. Gerbera are photosensitive during germination, so no top cover is needed. However, if you cannot keep humidity between 70 and 75% a thin cover of vermiculite is recommended. If using a germination chamber provide a minimum 12 hours of incandescent light per day.
- Stage 2** (days 6-14) Seedlings have now emerged and cotyledons are present. Provide good air movement and with an air temperature between 20-22°C. Lower air humidity to 20-30% and fertilize with 50-75 ppm of nitrogen from a well balanced calcium nitrate based fertilizer around day 10. Gerbera are sensitive to boron and iron deficiency. Maintain media pH between 5.5 and 5.8 and supply 0.25 ppm of boron when fertilizing. It is important to allow the seedlings to become dry in between waterings, but not to the point of wilt, as excess moisture and salts promote distortion.
- Stage 3** (days 15-42) Gradually increase the fertilizer concentration to 100 ppm nitrogen to maintain a media EC between 0.8 and 1.0 as seedlings progress. The young foliage is sensitive to fertilizer salts so rinse foliage lightly with clear water following fertilization. The use of calcium nitrate based fertilizers combined with 20-10-20 every 2nd or 3rd watering works well to maintain proper pH and healthy foliage. During dark weather young seedlings benefit from supplemental HID lighting at 3,200–5,400 lux up to 14 hours. Under high light conditions seedlings benefit from a light shade of 30-40%.
- Stage 4** (days 43-49) The plugs should have 4 true leaves and are approaching transplant stage. Transplant on time to avoid root bound plugs. Overgrown transplants take longer to finish and produce flowers on smaller plants. Reduce fertilizer levels and lower the temperature down to 16°C to tone the plants. Burying the plants too deep and covering the crown with soil leads to blindness.

Pack & Pot Culture

- In general** Plant protection: Keep insect populations small by frequently checking the plants and sticky cards. Prevent damage by using chemicals on time. Prevent fungal infections by employing good sanitation practices and proper hygiene. Check the plants weekly for diseases and remove and destroy infected

plants immediately. Plant Gerbera Festival in a well-drained ornamental pots or in garden borders in either full sun or partial shade. Keep evenly moist and prevent soil from drying out. Removing old flowers will stimulate continuous flowering.

Media	Select a sterile well-drained media with good aeration. Optimum pH is between 5.5-5.8 with an EC of 1.2 to 1.5 mmhos.
Transplanting	Transplant is 9-15 cm pot, depending the variety. Initially, keep pot tight for the first four to five weeks after transplant. Then, space before leaves cover the crowns of other plants. Plant crowns require sunlight to form buds. Lack of proper spacing results in delayed flowering, fewer flowers and longer leaves.
Temperature	Optimum day temperature is 22-24°C and 18°C at night. If the temperature drops below 15°C, flowering will be delayed and production time will increase.
Fertilizer	Initially, fertilize at 100-150 ppm nitrogen using a well-balanced calcium nitrate based formulation. When established, increase to 150-200 ppm nitrogen for best performance. A pH over 6.0 can induce iron and manganese deficiency characterized by interveinal chlorosis. A lack of magnesium initially results in interveinal chlorosis (yellowing) of older leaves. Boron deficiency is characterized by deep dark green foliage, crinkled leaves and tip abortion. Maintain the media pH between 5.5 and 5.8 and apply 0.25 ppm of boron when fertilizing. Pansy Special formulations at 150-200 ppm work well and provide higher levels of micronutrients, including boron. Alternate with 20-10-20 as needed to maintain proper pH levels. Ideal EC is 1.2-1.5 mmhos (1:2 slurry). A pH below 5.5 can induce manganese toxicity characterized by black spots.
Lighting	Gerbera require high light levels. If the day length is less than 12 hours, supplemental lighting up to 14 hours at 40 watts per square meter is recommended. A photoperiod greater than 14 hours promotes stretching. During the short days of Winter, supplemental lighting will greatly increase the quality of the plant. Optimum light level is between 43,000-65,000 lux.
Growth regulators	An application of Alar (B-9) 12-14 days after transplanting at 1,000-1,500 ppm is recommended to control plant height and open up the crown for light penetration. A second application 10-14 days later may be necessary. Festival is a standard gerbera variety and additional PGR applications may be necessary depending on the pot or pack size used. Avoid spraying after the buds are pea-sized as it reduces stem length and flower size.
Pests & diseases	Major pests include Leaf Miners, Thrips, White Flies, Cyclamen Mites and Aphids. Major diseases include Alternaria, Phytophthora and Powdery Mildew.
Crop schedule	Plug stage: 7 weeks. Transplant to flower: 7 to 11 weeks.

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.