

Platycodon grandiflorus F1 Astra



Retail Super Star! Excellent impulse item for gifts or just take-home. Ideally suited for modern mixed combinations and highlight patio containers.

- ✿ Excellent impulse item for Spring and Summer programmes
- ✿ Multiple seedlings produce stunning 12 cm pots
- ✿ Large, eye-catching star shaped flowers
- ✿ A firm consumer favourite
- ✿ Versatile-suitable for pot, patio and garden

 Annual	 Pot Plant
 Indoor + patio	 Half shade + full sun
 Upright	 950/gram
 25 cm	 Normal
 20 cm	 10-12 cm



Culture Guide

Plug Culture

- Stage 1** (days 1-10) Sow four seeds into a 220 deep plug cell filled with a well-drained peat based mix and having a pH of 5.5-6.0 and an EC of 0.5 mmhos (1:2 slurry). Avoid using shallow plug cells. Optimum germination temperature is 20-22°C. The goal is 3+ seedlings.
- Stage 2** (days 11-20) After the seedlings emerge, reduce the temperature to 18-20°C and provide good air movement. Apply a light feed of 50-75 ppm N using a well-balanced calcium nitrate based formulation.
- Stage 3** (days 21-35) Maintain optimum air temperature and raise fertilizer rates to 150 ppm N. Optimum EC level is 0.8-1.0 mmhos. Allow the plants to dry slightly between irrigations to maintain a healthy root system. No growth regulation is required in the plug stage.
- Stage 4** (days 35-42) The plugs should have well formed roots and are approaching transplant stage. Reduce fertilizer to tone the plants.

Pack & Pot Culture

- In general** Platycodon Astra may be produced for Spring and Summer sales.
- Media** Select a well-drained peat mixture with a pH of 5.5-6.0. A coarse peat mixed with 20% sharp sand is ideal.
- Transplanting** Place one multi-plug per 10-12 cm pot and 2-3 multi-plugs per 15-18 cm pot. Avoid planting too deep.
- Temperature** Optimum temperature is 20°C during the day and 16°C at night.
- Fertilizer** Provide even moisture and do not allow plants to become too dry; especially during chemical growth regulation, as this will result in yellowing of the foliage. Constant liquid feed with a balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer at 250-300 ppm N promotes good root development. Optimum EC is 1.5-2.0 mmhos. Reduce the fertilizer to half when flower buds are visible. Allow the media to dry slightly between watering as excessive moisture causes root rot. However, avoid wilting which causes yellowing of the leaves.
- Lighting** Avoid strong light (>54,000 lux) at the start of the crop. Plants will thrive in full sun after becoming established in pots. For northern Europe (above latitude 45°) provide long day conditions (14-16 hours) for transplants between weeks 27-5 using either night interruption or day length extension.
- Growth regulators** Apply B-Nine (daminozide) at 500-1,500 ppm several times per week. Extend applications, as needed, until flower buds show color. Be sure to water plants prior to application to avoid tip burn.

Crop schedule	Sow	Potting	Flower Unpinched	Flower Pinched	Total
	Early Feb.	Mid- March	Mid-May	Late May	14-16 weeks
	Mid- March	Late April	Mid-June	Late June	13-15 weeks
	Mid April	Late May	Mid-July	Late July	12-14 weeks
	Late May	Early July	Early Sept.	Mid-Sept.	

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.