

Cultural Information for:	Gerbera Durora	Annual
Common Name:	Gerbera / Transvaal Daisy	
Botanical Name:	Gerbera jamesonii	
Seed Count:	7,100/ounce	370/gram
Optimum Germination Temperature:	72-77°F / 22-25°C	
Optimum Growing Temperature:	68-70°F / 20-21°C	

Plug Culture – 5 weeks (200 / 10 x 20 tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-5) Single sow coated or seed into a 200 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 dilution) and a temperature of 72°F/22°C should be maintained. Gerbera is photosensitive during germination, so no top cover is needed. However, if the humidity is lower than 80%, lightly cover seed with vermiculite or cover with a plastic tent. If using a germination chamber provide a minimum of 12 hours of incandescent light per day.

Stage 2 (days 6-14) Provide good air movement and an air temperature between 68-72°F/20-22°C. Lower air humidity to 70% and fertilize with 50-75 ppm of nitrogen from a well balanced calcium nitrate based fertilizer around day 10. Gerbera is 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 plug media to become dry in between irrigations, but not to the point of wilt, as excess moisture and salts promote distortion.

Stage 3 (days 15-28) 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. A high potassium feed, 15-10-30, 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 300-500 foot candles/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 29-35) The plugs should have 4-5 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 to 62°F/ 17°C to tone the plants. Burying the plants too deep and covering the crown with soil leads to blindness.

Transplanting to flower – 9-12 weeks

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 (2:1 dilution).

Pot Size: Durora is recommended for planting in 3.5 to 4 inch / 7 to 10 cm. pots.

Spacing: Space before the plant crown is covered by the leaves of neighboring plants. It is best to space 5 per sq. foot/45 per sq. meter.

Temperature: Optimum day temperature is 72-75°F/22-24°C and 65°F/18°C at night. If the temperature drops below 60°F/16°C, flowering will be delayed and production time increased.

Watering and Fertilization: Gerbera performs best if allowed to dry slightly between watering. Initially, fertilize at 100-150 ppm N, increasing to 150-200 ppm N once established. Pot Mum Special fertilizers, 15-10-30, work well. Apply 20-10-20, as needed, to maintain optimum pH. A pH over 6.0 can induce iron and manganese deficiency characterized by interveinal chlorosis. Magnesium is important for Gerbera and a deficiency results in interveinal chlorosis (yellowing) of older leaves. Optimum K : Ca : Mg ratio is **3 : 2 : 1**. 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. Ideal EC is 1.2–1.5 mmhos (2:1 dilution). 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 4,000-6,000 foot candles/43,000-65,000 lux.

Growth regulators: Durora is genetically compact and in most cases growth regulation is not necessary. However, if needed, apply B-Nine® (daminozide) before flower bud development at 1,500–2,000 ppm / 0.15 – 0.2%.

Pests: Aphids, broad mites, cyclamen mites, leaf miners, thrips and whiteflies

Diseases: Alternaria, phytophthora, powdery mildew, pythium and sclerotinia.

Crop Time: Durora flowers in 15-18 weeks from sowing depending on time of year and light levels. 1 plant per pot.

“All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on North American 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 and state regulations. Always follow manufacturer's label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.”