

Cultural Information for:	Gomphrena Ping Pong	Annual
Common Name:	Gomphrena	
Botanical Name:	Gomphrena globosa	
Seed Count:	12,000 /ounce	430 /gram
Optimum Germination Temperature:	77°F / 25°C	
Optimum Growing Temperature:	68-76 °F / 20-24°C	

Ping Pong is ideal for knee high gardens in areas that have hot and humid summers. Ping Pong is an easy to grow carefree variety of Gomphrena. Strong basal branching with strong flower stems. Plant height is approximately 2-3 feet/60-90 cm. The flower colors are a rich deep purple, pink and white, with a 3 cm flower size. The foliage is dark green making a nice contrast with the intense flower colors. A very healthy-looking garden plant. Ping Pong is perfect for one gallon/4 liter production. It may also be used as a commercial cut flower either fresh or dried. Strong flower stems and good vase life with no problems with rehydration. Seed is sold as clean seed for ease in sowing

Plug Stage – 5 weeks (288 12 x 24 tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-10) Single sow seed of Gomphrena Ping Pong into plug trays using a well-drained sterilized media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.

Lightly cover the seed with vermiculite and keep moist at a temperature of 77°F/25°C.

Stage 2 (days 11-21) When the seedlings begin to emerge reduce moisture and place in a bright and well ventilated greenhouse. Lightly fertilize seedlings with 75 ppm nitrogen from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer. Optimum day temperature is 75-78°F/24 - 26°F with a night temperature of 65°F/18°C.

Stage 3 (days 22-30) Maintain optimum temperatures and an EC of 1.0 to 1.5 (2:1 dilution) with a pH between 5.8 and 6.2. High pH can reduce boron availability which causes edge burn and chlorotic foliage. Supplying 0.25 ppm of boron when fertilizing is recommended.

Stage 4 (days 31-35) Plants are approaching transplant stage. Reduce moisture and fertilizer levels to tone the plants and prepare them for transplanting.

Transplant Stage

Pack/Pots: Ping Pong can be sold green in jumbo packs or with color showing in one gallon/4 liter pots.

Fertilizer: Gomphrena prefers a well-drained soil with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2 with a media EC of 1.0 to 1.5 (2:1 dilution).

Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs): Plant growth regulators should not be necessary with adequate light levels. If necessary, applying B-Nine® (daminozide) at 1,500 – 2,500 ppm or Cycocel® (chlormequat) at 1,000 – 1,500 ppm is an option to control plant height and/or help tone the plants.

Timing: As bedding plants, allow nine to ten weeks from sowing for green packs and twelve to thirteen weeks for flowering in larger containers. For transplanting into 1 gallon/4 liter pots use a 128 plug cell and allow six weeks from sowing to transplant.

Container	Plug Stage	Finishing
Cell Packs	5 weeks (288)	4 weeks (sold green)
1 gallon / 4 liter	6 weeks (128)	6-7 weeks (with color)

Marketing tips: Gomphrena Ping Pong makes a nice component plant in mixed containers with Zinnia Profusion, Petunia Explorer and Marigold Proud Mari.

Cultural watch points: Be sure to allow sufficient drying in between irrigations to avoid rhizoctonia.

Cut Flower Production: Transplant actively growing plugs into a well drained soil rich in organic matter. Space plants 4x4 inch/10 cm.x10 cm apart to promote taller stems. Use support netting. Harvest with 3-4 open flowers.

“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.”