

Cultural Information for:	Cineraria Star Wars & Satellite	Annual
Common Name:	Cineraria	
Botanical Name:	Senecio cruentus	
Seed Count:	23,000 /ounce	800 /gram
Optimum Germination Temperature:	64-70°F / 18-21°C	
Optimum Growing Temperature:	50-60°F / 10-16°C	

Plug Stage - 6 weeks (128 / 8 x 16 tray)

Stage One (Days 1-10) Single sow seed into a well-drained media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a media EC of 0.5-0.75 mmhos (1:2 slurry). After sowing, water the plug tray thoroughly and maintain a germination temperature between 64-70°F/18-21°C. Do not cover the seed as light is necessary for germination. The soil should be moist but not saturated. Maintain high humidity to prevent desiccation of the small seed.

Stage Two (Days 11-21) Once the seedlings emerge lower the temperature to 61-64°F/16-18°C. When true leaves appear fertilization can begin with 50-75 ppm of N using a calcium nitrate-based fertilizer such as 13-2-13. Maintain EC level at 0.75–1.0 mmhos. Provide a maximum of 1,500 foot candles/16,000 lux.

Stage Three (Days 22-35) The plugs are beginning to fill in the tray. Allow the media to dry out slightly to encourage root development. The media should be moist, but not saturated. Water early in the day and provide good ventilation. Fertilize at 100-150 ppm with a calcium-based fertilizer and increase lighting to a maximum of 2,500 foot candles/26,500 lux. Maintain temperature at 57-61°F/14-16°C.

Stage Four (Days 36-42) Follow the same guidelines as in Stage 3, but lower the temperature to 60-62°F/16-17°C, and increase lighting to a maximum of 3,000 foot candles/32,000 lux. Plugs should now have 3-4 true leaves.

Transplanting to Flowering (12-14 weeks)

Potting: (3 weeks) -Transplant the plugs into containers using a porous media with a pH between 5.5 and 6.0. Fertilize as needed with 100-150 ppm N using a well balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation to maintain an E.C. at 1.0 to 1.5 mmhos. Allow the media to dry slightly between watering and maintain cool days with a night temperature between 57-61°F/14-16°C.

Flower bud initiation: (6 weeks) The plants are now fully rooted and have 8-10 leaves. Lower the temperature to 45-50°F/7-10°C for six weeks for flower bud initiation. Keep the plants on the dry side to control vegetative growth and to prevent root rot. Maintain an EC level at 1.0–1.5 mmhos (1:2 slurry). Avoid long day conditions at this stage which delays flower bud initiation.

Flowering: (3-5 weeks) Raise the temperature to 60-62°F/16-17°C and shade, if necessary, to allow a maximum of 3,000 foot candles/32,000 lux as excessive light will cause leaf burn. Providing long days (10 pm – 2 am) will hasten flowering. Star Wars flowers about 10 days later than Satellite.

Growth regulators: The newer cultivars often do not require growth regulators. However, a single application of daminozide at 2,500-4,000 ppm / 0.25 – 0.4% provides good control.

Pests: Aphids, whitefly and thrips

Common Diseases: Pythium, Botrytis, Powdery Mildew, Verticillium, TSWV