

Culture Information for Eustoma russellianum



Introduction

North American Native
Long vase life
Multiple flower forms
Wide color range and patterns
Single stem vs. pinched production
Scheduling

Lisianthus is native to desert areas but is not a true desert plant because it always has access to fresh water via its long tap root system.







Native Habitat



Vase Life



 Lisianthus is popular due to its long vase life of 14-21 days.



Lisianthus Classification

- Flower Petal; Single / Double
- Flower Size; Large / Small
- Flower Form; Rose / Camelia / Fringed
- Flower Color; Rose, Blue, White, Picotee +
- Type of Branching; Standard / Spray
- Earliness; Groups 1 3

✤; Let's review the classification table!

Lisianthus Characteristics

Flowering			
Period	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Summer	Good	Better	Good
Autumn	No	Maybe*	Better
Winter	Better	Maybe*	No
Spring	Better	Maybe*	No

**depending on the weather, somewhat risky*





Optimium Height 24 – 30 inches

Factors that affect development in order of impact.



Single Stem Production



- Single stem production is the most common.
- Pinching increases crop time (4 + weeks) along with reduced stem length, thinner stems and less branching.



Pinched Stem Production





Plants are spaced at 6 x 8 inches / 15 x 20 cm* and then pinched at the 2nd or 3rd leaf pair with the goal of yielding 2-3 stems. *3 per ft2 / 33 per m2



Basic Schedule* 22-24 weeks

Plug Production (288 cavity tray)	Juvenile Phase	Initiation*	Flower Development
8-10 weeks	6 weeks	9 – 10 leaf pairs	6-8 weeks

*the leaves becoming more pointed is an indication that the young plant is becoming generative. Flower bud formation after 9-10 leaf pairs produces the desired quality, not too light, but also not too heavy.

Factors that influence growth

- #1 Temperature
- #2 Photoperiod
- #3 Light Intensity

At higher temperatures, Lisianthus has an increased ability to photosynthesize.

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*single stem production

Young Plant Production

Seed storage Pre-cooling Plug stages 1-4 Capillary mats Optimum temperatures Deep plug cells Timely transplanting Avoiding induced dormancy (rosette)

Seed Storage



Seed Staging Cooler

- Prior to sowing, allow seed packets to reach room temperature prior to opening to prevent condensation forming.
- When replacing seed after sowing, leave the packet open in the seed storage cooler (25-30% R.H.), for 24 hours to equalize the humidity level with the lower humidity in the cooler before sealing.
- This prevents higher humidity present in the sowing area from condensating inside the seed packet due to the lower temperature.
- Temperature 41°F and 25-30% relative humidity is optimum.



Pre-Cooling



After sowing seeds, wrap the tray and keep at 50°F/10°C for 3 weeks under completely dark conditions.





Pre-Cooling - Seedling stage



Pre-Cooling - After transplanting



Stage 1: Day 1-14

- Do not cover the seed and supply enough moisture to disolve the pellet.
- A plug media that contains vermiculite works well to maintain uniform moisture.
- *pH 6.2-6.5*
- Optimum temperature is 68-70°F/20-21°C.



Stage 1: Days 1-14

- Seed requires light to germinate (up to 2,500 f.c./27,000 lux).
- Capillary action imitates the native habit and provides uniform moisture and germination.
- In its native area Lisianthus germinates in small pools of water.





Stage 1: Days 1-14



Watering with booms is common, but excess moisture/humidity can lead to improper rooting.



Stage 1: Days 1-14

- White-colored plug trays reduces the surface temperture, reducing the risk of rosette (induced resting stage).
- Covering with remay (fiber spun cloth) retains moisture and avoids excess misting





Stage 2: Days 15-21

- After germination is complete, place in a well lighted greenhouse with 2,500-3,000 f.c./27,000-32,000 lux, with good air circulation. Fertilize with 100-150 ppm N using a calcium nitratebased formulation.
- Optimum temperature range is between 60-75°F/16-25°C.





Stage 3: Days 22-56

- Avoid stressing the plant with:
- Low light levels
- Moisture stress

which promote a rosette, an induced resting stage.

- On the other hand, excess moisture invites disease.
- Fertilize at 150 ppm nitrogen targeting and EC of: 0.4 - 0.8 (1:2 dilution) mmhos/cm. 0.9-2.0 (SME) mmhos/cm. 1.1-2.6 (Pour Thru) mmhos/cm.





Cal Mag Fertilizer



- Cal Mag fertilizers are a good option for feeding Lisianthus seedlings.
- Target 150* ppm N to maintain the media EC at:

0.4 - 0.8 mmhos/cm. (1:2 dilution) 0.9-2.0 mmhos/cm. (SME) 1.1-2.6 mmhos/cm. (Pour Thru)

*supplies 0.18 ppm B so 0.07 ppm additional boron is required to meet the recommended 0.25 ppm B.



Stage 4: Days 57-60

- The plugs have two pairs of leaves and are now ready for transplanting.
- Late transplanting results in poor rooting, delayed flowering and shorter flower stems.







Active Root System

- It is important to transplant on time to avoid root banding / circling.
- Straight roots improve the transition between the plug tray and the flower bed.





Lisianthus Plug Trials



60 days aged seedlings with Plant-Plug

6

30 days aged seedlings with Plant-Plug

60 days aged seedlings with Plug Mix

100

Lisianthus Plug Trials

Excalibur Yellow 139 days after sowing

60 days aged seedlings with Plug-Mix

30 days aged seedlings with Plant-Plug 60 days aged seedlings with Plant-Plug

2006 8 10

Seedling Study

 Plants from aged plugs
 flower later on shorter stems.



Plug Tray

• The deeper the plug cell the better owing to Lisianthus's tap root structure.





Transplant actively growing plugs!



- Avoid planting overgrown plugs.
- Transplanting when 2 pairs of true leaves form is best; especially under long day conditions.
- Optimum plugs have straight roots ready to form a deep tap root system.

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Plugs produced in deep plug cells





Impact of the root system

Left - poor root growth Right - strong root growth



Relationship between roots and top growth.





Rosette – resting stage



Temperatures higher than 82°F/28°C during the first 4 weeks after sowing can induce rosetting in susceptible varieties. Maintain moderate temperatures between 63-75°F/17-24°C to prevent rosetting. If the day temperature exceeds 82°F/28°C, one can compensate with a lower night temperature below59°F/15°C.

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Rosette

- A rosette is a resting stage due to plant stress,(high temperature or moisture stress).
- Stress induces a resting stage for the survival of the species with the hope that the following season will be more favorable for growth and reproduction.
- Plants are susceptible to rosetting from sowing until 2 pairs of true leaves.





Rosette

- Rosetted plants sometimes do not appear until after transplanting.
- This condition is difficult to cure and requires a strong cold period* to break the dormancy.
- The use of gibberellic acid at 50-100 ppm is an effective solution in mild cases.
 Make one application, and if after two weeks there is no sign of bolting, a second application may be made.

*less than 53°F/12°C for 5 weeks.



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Bed Preparation

Steam sterilization Solar sterilization Soil Preparation Drainage Bag production Density Air movement
Steam Sterilization

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Due to fusarium, steam sterilization is necessary for continuous cropping in the same soil. The basic *metric* formula is 60-60-60.

Temperature	Depth	Minutes
60°C	60 cm.	60
140°F	2 feet	60

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Solar Sterilization



- Solar radiation is an option to sterilize the soil.
- Cover the soil with plastic at 180-200°F / 82-93°C.
- In hot climates it might take 4-6 weeks, while in cooler climates, it could take 6-8 weeks.
- Clear plastic works best in hot climates whereas black plastic works best in cooler climates due to its better ability to absorb and trap heat.



Soil Preparation





- Plant into raised ground beds containing a soil that is high in organic matter with good aeration and drainage.
- Ideally, the soil should be free of disease-causing organisms with a pH 6.8-7.2. A pH less than 6.2 increases the risk of microelement toxicity and uneven growth.
- Optimum starting soil EC is less than 0.7 mmhos/cm (1:2 extraction).
- If the soil is high in nutrients, plant a crop of Matricaria (chamomile) which will pull out excess nutrients and chemicals.



Raised Bed

- A raised bed improves drainage and soil aeration for deeper rooting and a drier soil surface.
- Cultivate to a mínimum depth of 12-inches/30 cm.



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A raised bed made of wooden boards





Black Bags

 Growing in black bags is an option to increase drainage. It also allows the use of sterilized soil mixed with recommended components.





Spacing

- Spacing will depend on whether one is producing a pinched or single stem crop.
- In general, space at 4 x 5 inches/10 x 12.5 cm. apart for better air movement and disease prevention.





Spacing

• Leaving 2 empty rows in the center of the bed improves air movement and reduces disease.





Flower Bed Design



- Placing plants in lines of
 2 rows with a space in
 between plantings
 improves air movement
 and increases light
 penetration.
- Reduces botrytis expression, of which Lisianthus is highly susceptible.



Media

Drainage
Friable
Organic Matter
pH
EC
Carbonized rice hulls

Soil



- Well drained, friable soil rich in organic matter.
- **Optimum pH:** 6.5 to 7.2
- EC Finishing Range:
 - 0.9 1.3 mmhos/cm (1:2)

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- 2.1 3.5 **(SME)**
- 2.7 4.6 (Pour Thru)

Sandy Loam



A sandy loam and ideal for lisianthus production.



Carbonized Rice Hulls

- Improves soil structure (aeration and drainage); especially in heavy and compact soils.

- Slow to decompose to maintain structure and porosity over time.

- Light weight makes them easy to handle.

- Encourages microbial activity making soil nutrients more available to plants.

- Contain silica, a beneficial mineral that strengthens cell walls against disease and pests.

- High carbon to nitrogen ratio making them an excellent source of organic matter.

- Release potassium, phosphorus and calcium as they decompose.

- Carbonized rice hulls possess a high pH (8.5-9.0) compared to non-carbonized rice hulls which are pH neutral. An increase in pH is beneficial for Lisianthus, especially in acidic soils, as a low pH creates an unfavorable environment for weeds and harmful bacteria.

- Top dress (2 inches thick) to suppress weeds or incorporate into the top 6-8 inches of soil.

- Renewable resource.

- Source organic rice hulls free of contaminants and pesticides.







Par Boiled Rice Hulls



- Par Boiled rice hulls are produced by steaming and drying rice hulls after the milling process. The results in a lightweight and consistent product that is free of viable weed and/or rice seed.
- 50 lb. bag = 7 cubic feet once expanded.



Moisture Management

Pre-watering
Initial 2 weeks from transplant
Humidity
Irrigation line placement
Disease management
Toning the crop

Pre-Watering

- Prior to transplanting, water the bed deeply to encourage production of deep roots for better growth.
- Provide enough water until the flower bud initiation stage.





Moisture Management



- After transplanting, employ overhead watering for the first two weeks to establish the root system.
- Once roots engage the soil drip irrigation may be used.



Humidity

- After transplanting maintain higher humidity for the first 10 days following transplanting.
- Reduce light levels to minimize stress on the plants.
- Optimum humidty level is 70% for greenhouse production.





Soil Surface



Based on its native habit, keep the soil surface dry to prevent disease and force the roots to go deeper in search of moisture.



Benefit of raised beds and porous soil



Raised cut flower beds and porous soil maintain the soil surface drier to reduce disease pressure.

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Excess Moisture



Fusarium oxysporum, is a common pathogen found in soil, and is a major challenge. Surface moisture facilitates its expression. One strategy is to apply Azoxystrobin* to innoculate the plugs or transplants.

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*Heritage

Subirrigation

- To maintain the soil surface dry, one can bury the irrigation 4-inches/10 cm. below grade or irrigate the walkway to accelerate healthy root development and reduce the outbreak of diseases.
- When side shoots appear on lower nodes, increased the interval between irrigations.



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Weak Stems

 Lisianthus grown too warm and with too much moisture results in weak flower stems.





Fertilizer

Rate
Calcium nitrate-based
Fertilizer sources
K: Ca: Mg ratio for mineral soils
Nutrient deficiencies

Fertilizer



Cut Flower Bed EC Range

Method	Target EC
1:2	0.9-1.2 mmhos/cm.
SME	2.1-3.5 mmhos/cm.
Pour Thru	2.7-4.6 mmhos/cm.

- Lisianthus does not require high fertilizer levels as do chrysanthemums. The use of calcium nitrate-based fertilizer is recommended to build strong stems and reduce soft growth.
- Lisianthus requires higher moisture levels in the early stage of development.
- As the plants begin to mature and show flower buds, watering should be reduced to tone the crop and prepare it for harvest.
- Cal Mag fertilizer formulations work well to supply calcium and magnesium.
- Start with 150 ppm N
- Prior to starting any fertilizer program, have the water and soil tested to identify what level of nutrients are needed

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Single Element Fertilizer 4K: 2Ca: 1Mg

Tank A / per 1 gallon of stock at 1:100*

Tank B / per 1 gallon of stock at 1:100*

- 7 ounces CaNO3 (calcium nitrate)
- 7 ounces KNO3 (potassium nitrate)
- chelates of iron, zinc, copper, manganese**
- 7 ounces MgSO4 (magnesium sulfate)
- 1 fluid ounce 75% P2O5 (phosphoric acid)
- sulfates of iron, zinc, copper, manganese**

150 ppm N 25 ppm P 194 ppm K 100 ppm Ca 52 ppm Mg



*requires a double headed injector **chose one form or the other, boron and molybdenum are compatible with either tank.

Fe: 1 ppm, Mn: 0.5 ppm, Zn: 0.5 ppm, B: 0.25 ppm, Cu: 0.2 ppm, Mo: 0.01 ppm in general for soilless media.

Irrigation Strategy

Starting 8 weeks after transplanting



- As the crop progresses, supply water less frequently* to achieve a deep and healthy root system.
- Healthy roots are better able to withstand stressful conditions.
- Stop fertilizing 4 weeks before color begins to show on the buds.

*for the Voyage series maintain steady moisture.



Irrigation – Fertilizer - Temperature



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Internode length

• A gradual increase in internode length is a sign of a wellgrown crop.



Rosita Blue Picotee



BORON DEFICIENCY

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- The snapping off of stems is caused by many factors.
- →Boron deficiency is a common cause of this problem.
- →Other reasons are Ca excess, low pH and N excess in the early stage.
- A soil pH level of over 6.5 is required.

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Lack of Calcium

- Calcium is an immobile element. Therefore, a deficiency shows in the younger foliage.
- For optimum uptake do the following:
- pH 6.8 7.2
- enough boron
- enough calcium
- a well-formed root system.





Tip burn

- Excess nitrogen suppreses calciuim uptake, resulting in tip burn.
- Increase ventilation to promote transpiration and calcium uptake into the plants.





Calcium Deficiency Nitrogen excess





Calcium Deficiency Nitrogen excess





- Tip-burning can be caused by high sunlight, if the plants have been grown with Ca deficiency or N excess.
- →A major means of reducing the problems is through ventilation.



Magnesium deficiency

 Magnesium is a mobile element, so a deficiency symptom shows first on the lower leaves.





Phosphate excess

• A short plant height, many branches and Deep green foliage are typical symptoms of phosphate excess.




Potassium excess

• The appearance of vertical stem cracking is a typical symptom of potassium excess due to the suppression of calcium.



Light & Temperature

DLI / Intensity Relationship between light and temperature Forcing / Supplemental light Air / Soil Temperature targets Photoperiod Flower Bud Initiation Excess light

Light

- A daily light integral of 14-18 moles is ideal.
- Optimum light levels range from 4,000-6,000 f.c. / 43,000-65,000 lux.
- A light level higher than 7,000 f.c. / 77,000 lux reduces stem length and should be avoided.
- As temperature increases, higher light is needed to maximize photosynthesis.
- Lisianthus requires ultraviolet light (UV-Ray) to form sturdy stems and produce pigments in the flower petals.



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Forcing with Lights



- Artificial lights increase air temperature which has a positive effect on photosynthesis as Lisianthus has an increased ability to photosynthesize at higher temperatures.
- Therefore, higher light benefits plant growth under higher temperatures.

Supplemental Light

• Applying supplemental light to extend the photoperiod or provide more light calories reduces crop time and improves plant quality.

Air Temperature

• For fast cropping maintain a minimum night temperature of 65F/18C and a minimum day temperature of 68F/20C.

Soil temperature

- Soil temperature is critical to proper development.
- Maintain a minimum of 55°F/ 13°C and a maximum of 72°F/23°C.
- The use of black plastic for winter and reflective or white plastic in summer is an option in areas where soil temperatures are difficult to control.

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Tight internodes at the base due to cool soil temperature

Low Temperature Damage

• The yellow spots on the leaves are also symptom of low temperature. They will be disappeared when it is warmed up.

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Rosetted plants

Rosetted plants due to high day temperature (>85°F/29°C) with a high night temperature (>73°F). In the case of high day temperature, even over 86°F/30°C, compensate with a lower night temperature (< 59°F/15°C) to prevent rosette formation.

Light Intensity - Field Production

Group 2

Group 4

Lisianthus planted in full sun will be shorter than a crop planted under cover. Therefore, it is necessary to select the correct ground number to compensate.

Diffused Light

High tunnel production in Southern California

Diffuse light penetrates deeper into the crop for better horizontal and vertical light distribution.
This increases photosynthesis, lowers the leaf temperature at high irradiance and thus reduces the risk of lightinduced loss of photosynthesis.

Photoperiod

Texas, native area, is at latitude 30 with a maximum day length of 14 hours.

Natural day length

- The day length influences plant development and flower bud initiation.
- Longer days increase light calories for faster growth.
- A photoperiod greater than 12 hours promotes faster flower bud initiation and development.

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Flower Bud Initiation

- Research at Wageningen University in the Netherlands found that plant development and flowering are an interplay of temperature, photoperiod and light intensity.
- The research shows that *temperature* is the most determining factor for the generative development of lisianthus.
- A longer photoperiod also has an influence, in part due to providing more light calories.

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Excess Light

- Reduce light intensity to 2,000 f.c. / 21,500 lux before flowering to prevent flower discoloration.
- In addition, vent and increase air movement to reduce temperature.

Excess Light

- High temperature combined with high light intensity causes flower petal burn.
- Blue and lavender-colored flowers are more sensitive to petal burn.
- Maintain enough soil moisture and apply shade cloth to reduce the temperature and light intensity.

Excess Light

- Flower petal burn due to high light and high temperature following a chemical spray application.
- It is best to apply chemicals in the morning when temperatures are cooler and the light intensity is lower.

Layers
Wires
Tailored System
Support System Idea

Support Layer

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A minimum of 1 layer of support is needed for indoor production and 2 layers for outdoor production due to wind and rain.

Tailored Support System

Support wires are run along the length of the cut flower bed with horizontal cross supports (strong thread) placed by hand.

Support Wire Tip

- Lisianthus needs at least one level of support to maintain straight stems.
- Using the invention in the photo helps keep the metal support wire more tense for a straighter crop.

Leaf Miners
Thrips
Whitefly
Worms

Insects

- Leaf Miners
 - Watch for visible mines.
- Thrips
 - Vectors of INSV, petal damage, scattered pollen.
- White Fly
 - Use I.P.M., monitor with blue and yellow sticky cards.
- Worms
 - Cut worms, watch lighting at night which attracts moths.

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Insects *Leafminers*

Characteristic tunnels or mines indicate the presence of leaf miners.

Thrips are an important greenhouse pest and also a vector of disease.

Organic Insect Control

Botrytis
Downy Mildew
Fusarium
Viruses
Powdery Mildew

Botrytis

- Botrytis
- Excess moisture, cool temperatures and lack of ventilation.

Botrytis

Botrytis

Downy Mildew

 Downy Mildew is favored by high humidity and low temperature (50-59°F/10-15°C).

Fusarium

- Fusarium oxysporum, an ascomycete fungus, is a fungal pathogen that primarily attacks the crown and stems of lisianthus but may also rot the taproot and large feeder roots near the soil line.
- The first above-ground symptom is a gradual loss of green coloration in leaves, which is followed by tan leaf flecks, browning of leaf veins and a tan discoloration of entire leaves. Wilting and a brown stem rot occur as the disease progresses, and infected plants rapidly die. Orange spore masses form on the bases of rotted stems and are diagnostically very important.
- Starting with healthy plugs, good sanitation, prompt removal of infected plants, steam sterilization and crop rotation all work together in minimizing this disease.

Pinkish powder is one of the typical symptom of Fusarium avenaceum.

A second harvest increases the risk of fusarium, especially in beds that lack proper sanitation and moisture control.

- If one is not able to sterilize • one's soil with either steam or solar radiation, one must allow 6 years in between crops by planting in the same field once every 7 years.
- Relocating high tunnels to new • ground every year is an option for those who own enough land.

Virus

- Lisianthus is affected by various viruses, among which is INSV (Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus).
- Destroy plants infected with a virus to avoid contaiminating the entire crop.

INSV

INSV

- INSV is one of the most common viruses that affect Lisianthus.
- Symptoms include down turned tips, stunted growth, clustered terminal leaves. In advanced infections small brown spots appear on the terminal leaves.
- Once infected, there are no chemical controls.
- Control thrips and rogue out infected plants to prevent and limit damage.
- Keep all weeds away from inside the greenhouse and all adjacent areas.

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CMV



- Cucumber Mosaic Virus which is common virus disease and carried by aphids.
- The symptom is stripe on flower petals and foliage.



Powdery Mildew



Mildew

- Main cause is lack of ventilation, excess air humidity and excess fertilizer; especially high nitrogen.
- Powdery Mildew (sphaerotheca) White to grey, talcum powder-like fungal spores appear mostly on the upper leaf surface.
- Downy Mildew (plasmopara) White sporulation mostly appears on the underside of the leaf. More related to phytopthora so chemicals that treat phytopthora also are effective against downy mildew.

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Harvesting

Cutting Stage
Post-harvest treatments
Storage

Harvest Stage

- Lisianthus stems are harvested with 1 or more open flowers.
- For local sales, growers often cut and sell the first flower for corsages and wait for additional flowers to open for greater impact.



Mariachi Grande White



Post Harvest Treatments



- Pulses with up to 6% sucrose or glucose improve petal color, increased bud opening, strengthened pedicels, and increased vase life.
- Holding solutions should be used by wholesalers and retailers for maximum vase life and improved bud opening and coloring.

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Ethylene



 Lisianthus is sensitive to ethylene and the use of STS or 1-MCP helps to delay senescence.



Storage



- Lisianthus can be stored wet or dry at 35-41°F/2-3°C for 2-3 days.
- If holding for longer than a few days hold them in water to improve vase life.
- Wet storage for a week reduces vase life by about 3 days.
- Buds continue to grow and open after harvest and show geotropic responses so store in an upright position to avoid stem bending upwards.

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Lisianthus Echo – Group 1







- Group 1 / Standard Double Flower
- 8 vibrant colors
- The first series with 100% double large Flowers.
- Strong plants that support the large flowers.



Rosanne – Groups 1-3



SAKATA[®]



- Excellent vase life with strong petals that resist botrytis problems during transport
 The flower stigmer do not develop yielding a longer vase life
- The flower stigmas do not develop yielding a longer vase life.

Mariachi[®] – Group 2





- Quadruple petals that is ideal for sowing in winter and harvesting in spring.
- Thick petals for improved shelf life and easier transportation.











- Large fringed flowers that are beautiful!
- Strong petals that ship well under stressful conditions.
- Excellent top flowering habit.
- Highly sought-after flowers available in 9 unique colors



Rosita[®] – Groups 1 - 3







- Strong petals and top flowering with strong stems making transportation easy with less botrytis problems.
- Rose-shaped medium-sized flowers.
- *Excellent vase life with more usable buds.*



Lisianthus Serie Solo_® - Group 2

- Solo® is the first pollen free series in the world, and the next generation in single flowered Lisianthus.
- Solo flowers do not produce pollen, which means that there is no mess, no stained flowers and an even longer vase life.
- The delicate but strong flowers ship well with less risk of damage and disease.
- Initially available in 4 colors.



Rosita 2 Green / Voyage 2 Green





Many thanks for your attention!



- Thank you for your support and confidence in our genetics.
- Sakata Seed America

