



AZUMI XL

ASTER

THE *Extra-Large*
AND EXTRA *Hearty* ASTER

SAKATA®

AZUMI XL

ASTER

Aster Azumi XL features extra large pompom sized flowers. The first flower is about 3" in diameter with subsequent flowers about 2" in diameter. Azumi XL features good germination and UPC with similar crop time as Matsumoto (13-14 weeks from sowing). Azumi XL is a strong grower and achieves plant height easier than does Aster Bonita. Azumi XL may also be disbudded to produce even larger flowers. Azumi XL Blue and White flower slightly earlier than Rose with Red being slightly later.

Extra-Large Flowers



THE Pop OF ASTER



EXTRA LARGE BLOOMS

Huge Pom Poms are perfect for high impact arrangements



FUSARIUM TOLERANCE



RETAIL APPEAL

Showy flowers are eye catchers at retail!



HIGH USABLE PLUG COUNTS

Germination Standard 80%



Note: Azumi XL is available only in North America

AZUMI XL

ASTER

ASTER F1 | CUT FLOWER

SEED FORM	Coated
CROP TIME	13 - 14 Weeks
PLANT H X W"	36" x 5-6"
STEM LENGTH	36 - 40"
COLORS/MIXES	4 / 0
SPACING	Spray 5-6", Disbud on 4" center





AZUMI XL ASTER

Aster Azumi XL features extra large pompom sized flowers. Azumi XL is a strong grower and achieves plant height easier than does Aster Bonita.

PLUG PRODUCTION 4 WEEKS (288 / 12 X 24 TRAY)

STAGE ONE (DAYS 1 –7): Select a well-drained sterile media with good aeration. Prior to sowing, water the plug tray to the point of drip. Sow the seed and cover with medium vermiculite. Do not water the seeds after sowing or the day following sowing. Maintain even moisture and a soil temperature of 70°F/21°C. Then, water the seedlings as needed allowing the media to dry slightly in between watering. An overly wet soil will decrease germination.

STAGE TWO (DAYS 8-15): After seedlings begin to emerge, move the plug trays to a bright greenhouse and reduce the air humidity and temperature to between 60–70°F/16–21°C. Lightly feed with 100 ppm N from a well-balanced fertilizer. *Asters are sensitive to Boron deficiency so maintain optimum pH levels (5.8–6.2) and target 0.25 ppm Boron with each irrigation/fertilization. Be sure to account for any boron present in the irrigation water.*

STAGE THREE (DAYS 16-24): Provide plenty of light and air circulation and fertilize the plugs as needed to maintain healthy tissue with 100–150 ppm N from a well-balanced fertilizer. The use of Calcium Nitrate based fertilizers is recommended to help build strong stems and roots.

STAGE FOUR (DAYS 25-28): Plugs are ready for transplanting into flower beds. Aster Azumi XL is sensitive to day length and stress conditions. In order to maximize stem length for cut flowers, **DO NOT DELAY TRANSPLANTING!**

CUT FLOWER PRODUCTION

CUT FLOWER BED: Azumi XL is tolerant of stem rot (fusarium), but steam sterilization and crop rotation is recommended to prevent disease.

TRANSPLANTING: Transplant at 3 true leaves to ensure proper development and enough stem length. Select a rich soil full of organic matter where Asters were not previously grown the previous year. Optimum pH is 5.5 to 6.5.

FLOWERING TYPE	SPACING	
Spray	5–6 x 5–6"	12–15 x 12–15 cm
Disbud	4 x 4"	10 x 10 cm

GROWING: Maintain good air circulation and temperatures between 60–70°F/16–21°C. Fertilize as needed to maintain a soil EC of 0.9–1.3 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 2.1–3.5 (SME) / 2.7–4.6 (Pour Thru)

SUPPORT: Asters have sturdy stems, but additional support is needed.

ASTER AZUMI

TYPE	Annual
COMMON NAME	Aster
BOTANICAL NAME	Callistephus chinensis
SEED COUNT	15,600–20,000/ounce 550–700/gram
OPTIMUM GERMINATION TEMPERATURE	70°F / 21°C
OPTIMUM GROWING TEMPERATURE	60–77°F / 16–25°C
OPTIMUM PH	5.5 – 6.5
PLUG-EC	0.4 – 0.8 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 0.9 – 2.0 (SME) / 1.1 – 2.6 (Pour Thru)
FINISHING-EC	0.9 – 1.3 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 2.1 – 3.5 (SME) / 2.7 – 4.6 (Pour Thru)

FLOWERING: Bud formation begins under long days (>16 hours) at a temperatures above 60°F/16°C with final development under short day conditions. In general, Aster AzumiXL flowers in 13–14 weeks (90–100 days) after sowing.

NATURAL SEASON FLOWERING WITHOUT PHOTOPERIOD MANIPULATION:

AREA	SOW	HARVEST
Warm Area*	March	July (17 weeks)
Cool Area*	April	July/August (15 weeks)

*Northern Hemisphere

FLOWER BUD INITIATION WITH PHOTOPERIOD

MANIPULATION: Provide long days for a minimum of 3 weeks starting at the 5th true leaf stage by lighting from 10 PM – 2 AM followed by short days when the crop is 2/3rd's the final desired height.

CYCLICAL LIGHTING: To save electricity the use of cyclical lighting is an option by applying light for 10 minutes followed by 20 minutes of darkness for 6 hours from 10 PM to 4 AM. (see culture watch points below)

DISBUDDING: To produce larger flowers disbud the stems as follows:

STEP	BEFORE HARVEST	ACTION
Step 1*	4–5 weeks	Remove upper side branches with buds
Step 2	2–3 weeks	Remove lower side branches with buds
Step 3	1 week	Remove remaining flower buds if needed

*Begin when the first top flower reaches 0.4–0.8 inches / 1–2 cm.

POST-HARVEST CARE: Cut stems when 2–3 flowers are 1/4 open. Strip off bottom leaves and place stems in tepid water in a cool area to allow for rehydration.

CULTURE WATCH POINTS:

- Night temperatures below 60°F /16°C promote vegetative growth and increase the risk of abnormal flower development; especially when using cyclical lighting.
- Short days following flower bud initiation, although not required, promote faster and more uniform flowering.
- Use steam sterilization and crop rotation to prevent stem rot (fusarium).

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.

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