

<b>Cultural Information for:</b>	Ageratum Blue Horizon	Annual
<b>Common Name:</b>	Ageratum or Floss Flower	
<b>Botanical Name:</b>	Ageratum houstonianum	
<b>Seed Count:</b>	19,800/ounce	700/gram
<b>Optimum Germination Temperature:</b>	77 °F / 25 °C	
<b>Optimum Growing Temperature:</b>	65 °F / 18 °C	
<b>Optimum pH:</b>	5.8 – 6.2	
<b>EC – Plug:</b>	0.26 – 0.75 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 0.76 – 2.0 (SME)	
<b>EC – Finishing:</b>	0.76 – 1.25 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 2.1 – 3.5 (SME)	

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

**Stage One** (days 1-7) Single sow pelleted seed into a well-drained peat mixture. Ageratum requires light to germinate so lightly cover with coarse vermiculite and maintain enough moisture to melt the pellet.

**Stage Two** (days 8-20) After emergence move plug trays to a greenhouse with high light and good air circulation. Reduce air temperature to 60-70 °F/16-21 °C and apply a light feed of 50-75 ppm N using a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation.

**Stage Three** (days 21-30) Increase fertilizer level to 100-150 ppm N. Allow the plants to dry slightly in between watering to reduce stretch and promote a strong, well-toned plant. Growth regulation is not recommended for cut flower production. For ornamental use in containers where height control is desirable, apply B-Nine (daminozide) at 2,500 ppm/0.25%.

**Stage Four** (days 31-35) The plugs are approaching transplant stage. Reduce fertilizer to tone the plants and prepare them for transplanting. **Do not delay transplanting.**

## Cut Flower Culture:

**Media:** Select a well drained sterile cut flower bed in full sun with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and a low nutrient charge.

**Watering:** Initially, keep the plants well moistened and then water as needed. Growing too dry may result in red-edged or yellow leaves.

**Fertilizer:** Well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulations work well to build strong and healthy plants. Excess nitrogen promotes overgrowth, invites disease and reduces vase life.

**Lighting:** Optimum light level is up to 7,000-foot candles./ 75,000 lux. Whitewashing the glass may be necessary May-September to reduce light intensity. Extending the photoperiod in winter to 16 hours is recommended to ensure enough stem length and improve flower quality.

**Temperature:** Optimum temperature is 60-70 °F/16-21 °C. For winter production maintain 60°F/15°C maximum. Temperature is more important than day length for winter flowering. Under low light conditions do not grow too warm, (above 60°F/15°C), or else the stem quality will be reduced and tissue too soft.

**Insects:** Aphids, whiteflies, thrips, mites

**Disease:** Botrytis and powdery mildew

**Single Stemmed Culture:** Space plants 4 x 4 inches/10 x 10 cm. apart in beds and provide support netting. Raise netting as the plants grow. Do not pinch the plants.

**Multiple Stemmed Culture:** Space plants 8 x 8 inches/20 x 20 cm. apart and pinch the growing tip to induce side branching. This will result in a heavy crop of high-quality cut flowers.

**Harvesting:** For summer production allow 12 weeks from sowing and 15 weeks for winter production. The first flower is usually removed to create a flush of flowers. The flowers should be well-colored before cutting.

## Container Culture:

**Pots:** For green sales in 4 inch/10 cm. pots place one plant per pot and plan on 4 weeks from transplant to shipping. Larger containers in color require 6-7 weeks from transplant.

**Media:** Select a well drained sterile mixture with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and a low nutrient charge.

**Growth regulation:** B-Nine is effective at 2,500 ppm / 0.25%. Do not apply plant growth regulators during bud formation.

**Culture watch points:** Avoid using Kelthane or Ortocides on the crop. Ronilan will damage the seedlings.

*“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.”*