

<b>Cultural Information for:</b>	Celosia Prestige Scarlet	Annual
<b>Common Name:</b>	Celosia	
<b>Botanical Name:</b>	Celosia argentea var. cristata	
<b>Seed Count:</b>	40,000/ounce	1,400/gram
<b>Optimum Germination Temperature:</b>	70-75°F / 21-24°C	
<b>Optimum Growing Temperature:</b>	65-75°F / 18-24°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 – 4 weeks (405 / 15 x 27 tray)

**Stage 1 (days 1-10)** - Sow seeds in a well-drained soil mix and cover lightly with media or vermiculite. Provide a soil temperature of 77°F/25°C. Germination takes place in 7 to 10 days. Since the root system is very delicate, avoid transplanting by sowing directly into plug cells.

**Stage 2 (days 10-19)** - After seedlings emerge, place plug flats in a well-ventilated area and reduce the temperature to 65-70°F/18-21°C during the day and 61-65°F/16-18°C at night. Fertilize plugs lightly with 50-100 ppm of Nitrogen. Over watering will promote disease; especially damping off and botrytis.

**Stage 3 (days 20-27)** - Maintain good air circulation. Celosia is sensitive to day length and any type of stress; like water, high temperature or root banding. Avoid stressing the plugs or else they can bud prematurely and cause stunted growth later in production. Celosia will bloom more quickly under short day conditions. Providing long days (> 14 hours) will delay flowering and promote vegetative growth.

**Stage 4 (day 28)** - Plugs are ready for transplanting. Do not delay transplanting. Holding the plugs too long in the plug tray will stunt future development of the plant and might cause premature budding.

## Transplanting to flowering 6 – 10 weeks

**Transplanting:** Celosia has a soft stem and delicate root system. To prevent root damage, use a plug popper to dislodge plugs and only handle seedlings by one leaf. Also avoid deep transplanting to prevent rhizoctonia.

**Media:** Select a well-drained media with a low starter charge.

**Temperature:** Maintain the plants at a temperature of 65-75°F/18-24°C.

**Light:** High light, full sun is best. Prestige Scarlet is a facultative short-day plant so initially providing long days (> 14 hours) promotes vegetative growth and increased size.

**Growth Regulator:** Not necessary. Do not pinch.

**Fertilization:** Feed with 100-150 ppm N as needed to maintain strong growth. *It is important to supply sufficient amounts of potassium in the fertilizer.* A lack of potassium causes smaller and abnormal shaped flowers.

**Cultural Watch Points:** Celosia Prestige Scarlet must be kept growing vigorously in order to reach favorable size before flowering slows their growth. Celosia is susceptible to pythium, downy mildew, botrytis, rhizoctonia, aphids and thrips. Boron deficiency can cause deformed foliage and a witches' broom effect. Celosia can also be sensitive to vaporized gases of certain herbicides like methylene, methoxy, dichlorophenyl and dichlorobenzonitrile. Also, avoid low temperatures (under 61°F/16°C).

## **Scheduling from transplant:**

Container	Total Crop Time
Jumbo Packs	10 weeks (sold green)
4 inch / 10 cm.	14 weeks with flower buds

**Marketing:** Celosia Prestige Scarlet is excellent for autumn sales in 6 inch/15 cm. pots and gallons and can be sold in full color.

For autumn sales use the following sowing schedule:

- Sow seeds in April
- Transplant to the garden or large containers in June
- Plants will begin to flower in August and continue in full bloom until frost

*“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.”*