

Cultural Information for:	Platycodon Sentimental Blue	Perennial
Common Name:	Balloon Flower	
Botanical Name:	Platycodon grandiflorum	
Seed Count:	34,000 /ounce	1,200 /gram
Optimum Germination Temperature:	68-72°F / 20-22°C	
Optimum Growing Temperature:	60-65°F / 15-18°C	
Optimum pH:	5.8 – 6.2	
EC – Plug:	0.4 – 0.8 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 0.9 – 2.0 (SME) / 1.1 - 2.6 (Pour Thru)	
EC – Finishing:	0.9 – 1.3 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 2.1 – 3.5 (SME) / 2.7 - 4.6 (Pour Thru)	

Plug Production – 6 weeks (405 / 15 x 27 tray)

Stage One (days 1-15) Single sow seed into a 405 deep plug cell filled with a well-drained peat-based. Avoid using shallow plug cells. Optimum germination temperature is 68-72°F/20-22°F.

Stage Two (days 16-21) After the seedlings emerge reduce the temperature to 60-65°F/15-18°C and provide good air movement. Apply a light feed of 50-75 ppm Nitrogen using a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation.

Stage Three (days 22-34) Maintain optimum air temperature and raise fertilizer rates to 150 ppm Nitrogen. Allow the plants to dry slightly between irrigations to maintain a healthy root system. No growth regulation is required in the plug stage.

Stage Four (days 35-42) The plugs should have well formed roots and are approaching transplant stage. Transplant on a timely basis to avoid plant stretch.

Transplanting to flower – 7 weeks

Potting: Select a well-drained peat mixture with a pH of 5.8 – 6.2. A coarse peat mixed with 20% sharp sand is ideal. Place one plug per 4 inch/10 cm pot and 3 plants per 6 inch/15 cm pot. Be careful not to bury the plants too deep.

Temperature: Optimum temperature is 65°F/18°C during the day and 60°F/15°C at night.

Fertilizer: Constant liquid feed with balanced fertilizer at 200 ppm N. Reduce to half after flower buds are visible. Be sure to allow the plants to dry slightly between watering as excessive moisture causes root rot. However, do not allow the plants to wilt as excess drying leads to yellowing of the leaves.

Spacing: Pots can be pot tight until the leaves touch, about 4 weeks after transplanting. Then space at 3 plants/square foot or 30 plants/square meter.

Growth Regulation: Pinching the plants 3 weeks after potting or applying B-Nine® at 1,500 to 2,000 ppm / 0.15 to 0.2% as needed is effective to control growth. Applications of growth regulator can continue until the first flower opens.

Timing: A February sowing will flower in May, around 105 days after sowing. The early development is slow. Plants may be pinched for a fuller look when the roots are ringing the bottom of the pot. Allow an additional two weeks crop time for pinched plants.

Note: Sentimental Blue is intended to be produced for spring sales. It may also be sown in early summer for fall sales. It is best to sow seed at least 12 weeks prior to first frost to allow the plants to establish in the garden before winter.

Hardiness: Sentimental Blue does best in a well drained soil and winter survival is dependent on an interaction between snow cover and temperature and humidity. In general, it will survive to -20°F/-28°C.

Special Note: Growers familiar with perennial plant production may grow and market the roots rather than finished plants. The roots should be half dried to facilitate transportation.

“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.”