

DIANTHUS SPP.

CUSTOMER CROP CULTURE GUIDE

TEMPERATURE	Overwinter in a frost free greenhouse. For example, heat at 3°C (37°F) and vent at 5°C (41°F).
LIGHT	Dianthus will perform best under high natural light levels.
CROP TIMING	Transplant plugs in WK40-12 for a spring finish. Multiple plugs can be used to fill larger pots. Later plantings can provide finished plants in summer and autumn.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	High humidity during the winter months can increase susceptibility of plants to pathogens such as <i>Botrytis</i> , <i>Fusarium</i> or bacterial leaf spot. Providing adequate air circulation will reduce the chance of infection.
MEDIA	Use a peat-based growing medium with a pH of 5.3 to 5.8. Well-draining soil is very important during the winter months to prevent root rot.
IRRIGATION	Careful water management is always important. Dianthus will develop root rot if their roots are continually wet.
FERTILITY	Regular liquid fertilization is recommended for Dianthus production. In general, we advise using a low nitrogen fertilizer throughout the growing season. Maintain media EC at 0.5 using a 1:2 dilution method.
TRIM	Multiple trims will be necessary to form a well filled out plant as well as to delay flowering until preferred finish date. Last trim for spring sales should be at the beginning of April. Timing will depend on climate and location.
SPACE	Space plants to prevent foliage touching, allowing for adequate light to prevent stem elongation, and sufficient air movement to prevent disease.

PEST MANAGEMENT	<p>Dianthus must carefully be monitored for fungal diseases and root rot during the winter months.</p> <p>Insect pests such as aphids can commonly be found in the spring, distorting the foliage; thrips may be active in the crop once the flowers appear.</p>
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PEST		CONTROL	ACTIVE INGREDIENT
Insect	Aphids	Beleaf	flonicamid
		Endeavor	pymetrozine
		Kontos	spirotetramat
	Thrips	Beleaf	flonicamid
		Safer's Insecticidal Soap	potassium salts of fatty acids
	Disease	Root rot (preventative)	Subdue Maxx
Senator			thiophanate-methyl
<i>Fusarium</i>		Switch	cyprodinil/fludioxonil
<i>Botrytis</i>		Rhapsody	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>
		Zerotol	hydrogen peroxide
Bacterial blight/black spot		Phyton 27	elemental copper

The above information contains general guidelines and is not directed for specific regions or climates. Please get in touch with the Qualitree Grower Services team for further information if required.