

Aster Matsumoto Series

- Perfect for monoculture bunches or bouquets
- Classic colours
- Suitable for greenhouse or field production

Aster are an old-time favourite that have never gone out of style. They were introduced through Ball Seed Company by George J. Ball himself in the early 1900s. The aster (*Callistephus chinensis*) family is a big one, and has flowers that come in many bright colours and different sizes.

It's a versatile flower since it comes in a wide range of colours, providing the vintage and cottage look that is so much in fashion. And it can be grown year-round.

Fusarium tolerant, large-flowered Matsumoto offer all the characteristics needed for a focal-point flower in a bouquet or flower arrangements. Matsumoto can be grown single stem or as sprays, making this series a favourite in the ever-expanding bouquet business.

WE ALSO CARRY THE FOLLOWING SERIES:

- BONITA
- SYRINGA
- BALLOON



CULTURAL INFORMATION

Aster (*Callistephus chinensis*)

CROP TIME: 16 weeks from plug to flower.

PLANTING DENSITY: One plant per 15 x 20cm netting square.

PRE-PLANTING:

- **SOIL:** Well-drained soil, very well-leveled surface, no clumps, tilled to 25cm deep.
- **pH:** 6.0 to 7.0
- **NETTING:** Netting size 15 x 20cm.

PINCH: Not recommended.

IRRIGATION: Aster root systems are shallow. Do not overwater. Avoid overhead irrigation to keep the leaves as dry as possible, which helps prevent disease.

DAYLENGTH LIGHTING:

Start seven days after transplant when the plants have true leaves. The flower bud growth initiation takes place under long day conditions, but the final flower development is hastened under short days. Therefore the light should be stopped when the plants are 35-40cm high. Take into consideration that these plants have a critical 14 hour photoperiod, and an optimum of 16 hours, for flower bud initiation. Planting this crop without photoperiod lighting is not recommended.

FERTILISATION: Fertilise as needed to maintain healthy growth. Low fertiliser levels will cause lower leaves to yellow. High fertiliser levels will result in large foliage, delayed flowering and shorter vase life.

HARVEST: Harvest when 60% of the flowers are open.

POSTHARVEST: Hydrate stems in bactericide solution.

INSECTS AND DISEASES:

- Aphids
- Thrips
- Leafminers
- Fusarium (crop rotation is recommended)
- Botrytis
- Very susceptible to phytotoxicity from chemical applications