

Celosia argentea cristata

Chief



Chief is very well suited to production in areas with high temperatures, and is versatile, suitable for plug cultivation or direct sowing. Large, round flower heads in striking colours give a strong impression.

- ✱ Produces large, uniform, globe-shaped flower heads
- ✱ Very uniform growth pattern
- ✱ Highly suitable for cut flowers during periods of high temperature
- ✱ Dense plantings produce strong stems and high quality cut flowers



 Indoor	 Cut Flower
 -	 1,400/gram; normal
 80-100 cm	 Cool, dry, airtight 8-10°C

Culture Guide

Plug Culture

- Stage 1** (days 1-10) Sow seeds in a well-drained soil mix with a pH between 5.5 and 6.0 and low soluble salts (ideally less than 0.6 mmhos 1:2 slurry). Cover the seed lightly with media or vermiculite. Provide a soil temperature of 21-24°C. Germination takes place in 7 to 10 days. Since the root system is very delicate, either direct sow or transplant from plugs.
- Stage 2** (days 10-19) After seedlings emerge, place plug trays in a well ventilated area and reduce the temperature to 19-21°C during day and 16-18°C in the night. Over watering will promote disease; especially damping off and Botrytis.
- Stage 3** (days 20-27) Maintain good air circulation and media EC levels around 0.8 to 1.0 mmhos (1:2 extraction). Celosia is a facultative short day plant and will flower more quickly under short day conditions (<13 hours) and any type of stress; like water or high temperature.
- Stage 4** (days 28) Plugs are ready for transplanting. Celosia forms a taproot and is sensitive to root damage. Be careful not to damage the delicate root system. Transplant before the taproot emerges.

Plant Culture

- Media** Select a well-drained media with a low starter charge. Ideal pH is 5.5-6.0.
- Transplanting** Never delay transplanting! Holding the plugs too long in the plug tray will stunt future development of the plant and might cause premature budding and low quality plants without enough foliage development. Celosia makes a taproot and is sensitive to root damage. Be careful not to damage the soft root system. Transplant before the taproot emerges. It is best to handle Celosia by the leaves to prevent damaging the soft stem. Also avoid deep transplanting to prevent Rhizoctonia. Transplant 40-48 plants per net m²
- Temperature** Maintain the plants at a temperature of 16-24°C.
- Fertilizer** Feed with 150-200 ppm N as needed to maintain the EC at 1.0 to 1.4 mmhos (1:2 slurry). It is important to supply sufficient amounts of Potassium in the fertilizer. A lack of Potassium will cause smaller and/or abnormally shaped flower plumes to be formed.
- Lighting** High light, full sun is best.
- Pests & diseases** Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Botrytis, Aphids and Thrips.
- Crop schedule** Warm Area: March/April sowing - June/July cutting.
Cool Area: May/June sowing - August/September cutting.
- Post harvest handling** Cut when plumes have developed into full size and when fully mature. Bunch cut flowers in somewhat dry conditions, when foliage shows signs of wilt, this will avoid damage to cut flowers during transportation. Vase life: Approximately 5-6 days. Use of flower food is highly recommended.

All information given is intended for general guidance only and is believed to be accurate. Cultural details are based on Northern Hemisphere 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 legislations and manufacturer's label instructions.