

# Dianthus chinensis F1 Diana



<b>Life cycle</b>	Annual
<b>Family/origin</b>	Caryophyllaceae/Northern China
<b>Popular uses</b>	Outdoor containers, pot and pack, suitable for borders and beds
<b>Mature plant height</b>	20-25 cm (8-10")
<b>Mature plant width</b>	20-25 cm (8-10")
<b>Pot size</b>	Packs, 10-15 cm (4-6") pots, quart or gallon pots
<b>Plants per pot</b>	1 for 10 cm (4") or quarts; 3 per 15 cm (6") or or gallon pots
<b>Sun exposure</b>	Sun or partial shade
<b>Water requirements</b>	Reduced, avoid wet conditions
<b>Flowering time</b>	Entire growing season
<b>Media</b>	A well-drained, porous media is best to prevent over watering pH 5,5-5,8 EC 1-1,5 (150-225 ppm N)
<b>Growing temperature</b>	Temperature for active growth 15°C (58°F) at night, 16-18°C (60-64°F) at day time
<b>Light</b>	Increase total light energy to promote early flowering, daylength extension is not necessary but will promote bud set
<b>Fertilizer needs</b>	Balanced N:P:K fertiliser as needed ammonium based fertilizers are not recommended, use calcium based fertilizers EC 1,8-2,2 (275-330 ppm N)
<b>Crop time</b>	14-16 weeks
<b>Hardiness zone</b>	Annual



*Picotee mixture*

## Growth regulators

Dianthus responds to: Chlormequat (Cycocel) and Paclobutrazol (Bonzi)

## Common Diseases

Botrytis, Alternaria leaf spot, Fusarium Wilt

## Common Pests

Spider mites, Thrips, Aphids and Whitefly

## Pinching

No need but a single pinch is recommended for a better branching. Croptime is 1-2 weeks longer

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## Plug Production



<b>Seed forms</b>	Raw and pelleted
<b>Seed count</b>	1100-1250 sds/gr (30,000-35,000 sds/oz) <i>Varies by lot!</i>
<b>Recommended plug size</b>	480-264
<b>Seeds cell</b>	1
<b>Vermiculite cover</b>	Light cover with vermiculite
<b>Stage 1 Germination</b>	Temperature 21-24°C (70-75°F) growing medium temperature EC 0,5-1,0 (75-150 ppm N) Radicle emergence will take place in 2-4 days Keep media moist but do not overwater Light is not necessary for germination Dianthus is very sensitive to high salt levels in stage 1 and 2
<b>Stage 2 Stem and cotyledon</b>	Keep media moist Lower night temperature to 18°C (65°F) Under low light conditions supplementary lighting is advised to promote compact strong seedlings EC 0,5-1,0 (75-150 ppm N)
<b>Stage 3 Growth and development</b>	Moisture: reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry between watering. Do not allow plants to wilt Temperature: 18-20°C (65-68°F) Fertilization: EC 1,2-1,5 (180-225 ppm N)
<b>Stage 4 Ready for transplanting</b>	Moisture: reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry between watering. Do not allow plants to wilt Temperature: 13-15°C (54-59°F) Fertilization: see stage 3
<b>Plug crop time</b>	5-6 weeks
<b>Approximate finish time</b>	9-10 weeks
<b>Special tips</b>	Ensure best light conditions especially early season and grow dry to restrict and harden growth. Transplant on time