

## Ageratum Pearl

(*Ageratum houstonianum*)

### Germination

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free plug media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and EC about 0.75 mmhos/cm (1:2 extraction).

#### Sowing

Moisten the media before sowing the seed. If media is watered after sowing, make sure seeds are not washed away. Cover the seed with a light layer of vermiculite.

#### Temperature

- **Germination:** 72 to 75°F (22 to 24°C)
- **Cotyledon stage:** 68 to 75°F (20 to 24°C)
- **True leaves:** 65 to 72°F (18 to 22°C)
- **Hold plugs:** 60 to 68°F (15 to 20°C)

Germination takes approximately 3 to 4 days in a germination chamber.

### Plug Production

#### Media

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Germination takes approximately 3 to 4 days in a germination chamber

#### Fertilizer

As cotyledons expand, feed 50 ppm N in a nitrate form. When true leaves begin to develop, increase to 100 ppm.

### Growth Regulators

No plant growth regulators are required.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

#### Temperature

**Nights:** 58 to 62°F (14 to 17°C)

**Days:** 70 to 80°F (21 to 27°C)

#### Irrigation

Irrigate plants on an as-needed basis. Excess water will promote lush growth and tall plants, and will delay flowering. Do not allow plants to wilt severely, or leaves may burn and drop off.

#### Fertilizer

Ageratum are light feeders, so they do not require large applications of fertilizers. Feed at a rate of 100 to 150 ppm N from a balanced fertilizer. Excessive nutrient levels will produce lush growth and will delay flowering.

### Growth Regulators

If necessary, use B-Nine at 2,500 ppm.

### Crop Scheduling

Ageratum is usually scheduled as a 9 to 10-week crop. Use of excessive growth regulators and/or less than optimal cultural practices may delay flowering and extend the crop time to as much as 12 weeks.

### Common Problems

**Insects:** Whitefly, thrips, aphids