

<b>Cultural Information for:</b>	Ageratum Blue Horizon	Annual
<b>Common Name:</b>	Ageratum or Floss Flower	
<b>Botanical Name:</b>	Ageratum houstonianum	
<b>Seed Count:</b>	19,800/ounce	700/gram
<b>Optimum Germination Temperature:</b>	77 °F / 25 °C	
<b>Optimum Growing Temperature:</b>	65 °F / 18 °C	

## Plug Stage – 5 weeks (288 / 12 x 24 tray)

**Stage One** (days 1-7) Single sow pelleted seed into a well drained peat mixture with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and a low nutrient charge (EC < 0.5 mmhos/1:2 slurry). Ageratum requires light to germinate so lightly cover with coarse vermiculite and maintain sufficient moisture to melt the pellet. Optimum germination temperature is 78-82 °F/25-28 °C.

**Stage Two** (days 8-20) After seed emergence move plug trays to a greenhouse with high light and good air circulation. Reduce air temperature to 60-70 °F/16-21 °C and apply a light feed of 50-75 ppm N using a well balanced calcium nitrate based formulation.

**Stage Three** (days 21-30) Increase fertilizer level to 100-150 ppm N. Optimum EC is 0.7-1.0 mmhos (1:2 slurry). Allow the plants to dry slightly in between watering to reduce stretch and promote a strong, well-toned plant. Growth regulation is not recommended for cut flower production. For ornamental use in containers where height control is desirable, apply B-Nine (daminozide) at 2,500 ppm/0.25%.

**Stage Four** (days 31-35) The plugs are approaching transplant stage. Reduce fertilizer to tone the plants and prepare them for transplanting. **Do not delay transplanting.**

## Cut Flower Culture:

**Media:** Select a well drained sterile cut flower bed in full sun with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and a low nutrient charge.

**Watering:** Initially, keep the plants well moistened and then water as needed. Growing too dry may result in red-edged or yellow leaves.

**Fertilizer:** Well balanced calcium nitrate based formulations work well to build strong and healthy plants. Optimum EC is 0.7- 1.0 mmhos. Excess nitrogen promotes overgrowth, invites disease and reduces vase life.

**Lighting:** Optimum light level is up to 7,000 foot candles./ 75,000 lux. Whitewashing the glass may be necessary May-September to reduce light intensity. Extending the photoperiod in winter to 16 hours is recommended to ensure sufficient stem length and improve flower quality.

**Temperature:** Optimum temperature is 60-70 °F/16-21 °C. For winter production maintain 60°F/15°C maximum. Temperature is more important than day length for winter flowering. Under low light conditions do not grow too warm, (above 60°F/15°C), or else the stem quality will be reduced and tissue too soft.

**Insects:** Aphids, White Fly, Thrips, Mites

**Single Stemmed Culture:** Space plants 4 x 4 inches/10 x 10 cm. apart in beds and provide support netting. Raise netting as the plants grow. Do not pinch the plants.

**Multiple Stemmed Culture:** Space plants 8 x 8 inches/20 x 20 cm. apart and pinch the growing tip to induce side branching. This will result in a heavy crop of high quality cut flowers.

**Harvesting:** For summer production allow 12 weeks from sowing and 15 weeks for winter production. The first flower is usually removed to create a flush of flowers. The flowers should be well-colored before cutting.

## Container Culture:

**Pots:** For green sales in 4 inch/10 cm. pots place one plant per pot and plan on 4 weeks from transplant to shipping. Larger containers in color require 6-7 weeks from transplant.

**Media:** Select a well drained sterile mixture with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and a low nutrient charge.

**Growth regulation:** B-Nine is effective at 2,500 ppm/0.25%.

**Culture watch points:** Avoid using Kelthane or Ortocides on the crop. Ronilan damage seedlings.

Do not apply plant growth regulators during bud formation.