

Pearl F₁ Series Ageratum

Compact, Early Series Requires Less PGRs!

- Well-matched across the series for its compact, well-branched and mounded habit in the garden.
- The need for less plant growth regulators means **Pearl** can be produced with time and chemical savings.
- When PGRs are used, plants respond more uniformly than other varieties.
- Vigorous and early-blooming plants.
- Profuse top flowering for good colour show all season.
- Dark green-leafed, 12-in. (30-cm) plants perform best in full sun.
- Ideal for borders and mass landscapes.
- Available as raw and single-seed pellets. Contact your local distributor or PanAmerican Seed at 800 231-4868.

A. houstonianum

Approximate Seed Count: 213,000 S./oz. (7,500 S./g)

Plug Production

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free plug media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.5 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 78°F (22 to 25°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.

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

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: 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°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. **Pearl Silver** may only require about 1,200 ppm, or about one-half of the rate used for **Pearl Blue** and **Pearl Royal**. Excess B-Nine on **Pearl Silver** may cause puckering of the leaves.

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

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