

# Corona<sup>TM</sup> Cherry Magic & Valentine Dianthus

■ 2003 All-America Selections Winner & Fleuroselect Quality Mark Winner **Corona<sup>TM</sup>** Cherry Magic dianthus has the largest flowers on the market – 2.5 to 3 in. (6 to 8 cm) across. The eye-catching blooms show a unique mixture of solid cherry, lavender with cherry centers and “tie-dyed” lavender and cherry pattern. These compact and extra-early blooming plants are ideal for pack and small pot production. A **Nature’s Décor<sup>®</sup>** variety.

■ **Valentine** dianthus features a unique red flower with a white picotee border that can be finished as a terrific Valentine’s Day or Christmas novelty pack or small pot item.

■ Both **Corona** Cherry Magic and **Valentine** dianthus grow 8 to 10 in. (20 to 25 cm) tall, making these sun-lovers great bedding plants.

■ **Corona** Cherry Magic and **Valentine** dianthus are available as seed or plugs. Call your local distributor or PanAmerican Seed at 800 231-4868 today.

*D. chinensis*

**Approximate seed count:** 46,000 to 57,000 S./oz. (1,600 to 2,000 S./g)

## Plug Production

### Plug Tray Size

Best produced in 406-cell or larger plug trays.

### Sowing

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless medium with good aeration and water-holding capacity. Cover seed with vermiculite at sowing. Water well, but allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings.

### Temperature

60 to 72°F (15 to 22°C).

### Light

No supplemental lighting is required.

### Fertilization

**Stage 3:** Alternate 20-10-20 and 14-0-14 at 50 ppm each week.

**Stage 4:** Same as Stage 3, but increase to 100 ppm.

### Growth Regulators

PGRs are not generally needed, although **Corona** Cherry Magic and **Valentine** dianthus are responsive to Bonzi and B-Nine. An application of Bonzi spray at 6 ppm in early Stage 3 will tone the plugs.

## Growing On to Finish

### Container Size

**Corona** Cherry Magic and **Valentine** dianthus are suitable for production in any pack configuration up to a 4-in. (10-cm) pot. Can be grown pot tight.

### Temperature

60 to 72°F (15 to 22°C).

### Fertilization

After plants are established, apply a calcium-based fertilizer or 15-5-15 at 100 ppm, 1 to 2 times per week.

### Growth Regulators

**Corona** Cherry Magic and **Valentine** dianthus are very responsive to growth regulators, like other dianthus. For example, an application of Bonzi spray at 20 ppm can be applied 2 weeks after transplanting and another application of Bonzi spray at 20 ppm may be required 10 to 14 days later. A tank mix of B-Nine at 5,000 ppm and Cycocel at 1,000 ppm spray can also be substituted for the Bonzi spray above for a gentler effect.

### Crop Scheduling

**Corona** Cherry Magic

**Sow to flower:** 10 to 12 weeks

**Valentine**

**Sow to flower – Spring:** 13 to 14 weeks

**Sow to flower from August sowing:** 11 to 12 weeks

### Producing Valentine for Valentine’s Day finishing, based on California production:

**Sow:** Week 44 (approximately October 28)

**Finished container size:** 3-in. (7-cm) pot or packs

**First flower:** Week 6 (approximately February 3)

**Greenhouse temperatures:** 70°F (21°C) days, 55°F (13°C) nights

For outdoor production, add 3 to 4 weeks to crop time. Supplemental lighting may be required in lower light zones.

### Cultural Tip

Use a powdery mildew preventative program. Pyrrole and Piperalin can cause phytotoxicity.

PanAmerican Seed