

Celosia Prestige Scarlet

Crop	Celosia
Series	Prestige Scarlet
Botanical name	<i>Celosia cristata</i>
Plant type	Annual
Seed type	Raw
Seed count	1,500 seeds /gr
Germination	25°C - 5-7 days light inhibited
Growing	18-24°C
Optimum pH	5.8-6.2

Plug Culture: 4 weeks (405 cell tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-10) Sow seeds in a well-drained soil mix and cover lightly with media or vermiculite. Provide a soil temperature of 25°C. Germination takes place in 7-10 days. Since the root system is very delicate, avoid transplanting by sowing directly into plug cells.

Stage 2 (days 10-19) After seedlings emerge, place plug trays in a well-ventilated area and reduce the temperature to 18-21°C during the day and 16-18°C at night. Fertilize seedlings lightly with 50-100 ppm of nitrogen. Over watering will promote disease; especially damping off and botrytis.

Stage 3 (days 20-27) Maintain good air circulation. Celosia is sensitive to day length and any type of stress; like water, high temperature or root banding. Avoid stressing the seedlings or else they can bud prematurely and cause stunted growth later in production. Celosia will bloom more quickly under short day conditions. Providing long days (> 14 hours) will delay flowering and promote vegetative growth.

Stage 4 (day 28) Seedlings are ready for transplanting. Do not delay transplanting. Holding the seedlings too long

in the plug tray will stunt future development of the plant and might cause premature budding.

Transplanting to finish: 6-10 weeks

Transplanting: Celosia has a soft stem and delicate root system. When dislodge seedlings, please handle it carefully to prevent root damage. Also avoid deep transplanting to prevent rhizoctonia.

Media: Select a well-drained media with a low starter charge.

Temperature: Maintain the plants at a temperature of 18-24°C.

Light: High light, full sun is best. Prestige Scarlet is a facultative short day plant so initially providing long days (> 14 hours) promotes vegetative growth and increased size.

Plant growth regulators: Not necessary. Do not pinch.

Fertilizer: Feed with 100-150 ppm nitrogen as needed to maintain strong growth. It is important to supply sufficient amounts of potassium in the fertilizer. A lack of potassium causes smaller and abnormal shaped flowers.

Cultural Watch Points: Celosia Prestige Scarlet must be kept growing vigorously in order to reach favorable size before flowering slows their growth. Celosia is susceptible to pythium, downy mildew, botrytis, rhizoctonia, aphids and thrips. Boron deficiency can cause deformed foliage and a witches' broom effect. Celosia can also be sensitive to vaporized gases of certain herbicides like methylurea, methoxy, dichlorophenyl and dichlorobenzonitrile. Also, avoid low temperatures (under 16°C).

Marketing: Celosia Prestige Scarlet is excellent for autumn sales in 15 cm pots and can be sold in full color.

All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on Asian conditions such as in Japan and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Always follow manufacturer's label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.