

Ageratum

Artist[®]



NUTRITION

pH: 5.8 – 6.2

EC: (2:1 extraction method) .6 – .9

Constant feeding at 150ppm – 200ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix is recommended.

TEMPERATURE

Rooting out: 65 – 72 F

Growing on: 65 – 72 F

Holding: 50 – 60 F

WATERING

Maintain moderate soil moisture. Allow the soil to cycle from moist to dry. Avoid both severe dry downs/wilting and long periods of wet soil, especially at cooler temperatures. Growing at lower moisture levels can be beneficial towards producing a more compact blooming plant with fewer PGRs required. This practice can also be used to help "hold" plants.

TIMING

4"-5": 4 – 5 weeks with one 84 or 104 Liner plant per container.

6"/1GL Royale™: 6 – 7 weeks with one 84 or 104 Liner plant per container.

8": 4 – 9 weeks with one to three 84 or 104 Liner plants per container.

PLANTING

The 84 and 104 Liner plants should be planted into a well-drained soil mix selected to match individual water quality and fertilizer blends. Water in thoroughly without saturating the mix and maintain a constant moderate soil moisture level for the first seven to 10 days to establish new rooting. Plants have already been pinched and further pinching should not be needed, except in the case of taller material at time of planting or a second pinch on plants for larger containers. This second pinch can be given for larger containers, usually two to four weeks after planting.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

These plants should be grown in a high light area of the greenhouse for optimal flowering and plant development. Artist[®] *Ageratums* flower very early and supplemental lighting should not be required for early spring flowering.

GROWTH REGULATORS

If required, either a light spray of Sumagic[®] (uniconazole) at 2ppm – 5ppm or a more thorough application (just to the point of runoff) of B-Nine[®] (daminozide) at 2,500ppm – 5,000ppm is effective. Other materials such as Bonzi[®] (paclobutrazol), Topflor[®] (flurprimidol), and Piccolo[®] (paclobutrazol) can be used at rates that correspond with the degree of treatment recommended for Sumagic. Drenches should not be needed. Cooler growing temperatures and especially drier growing practices can be very helpful at managing plant size.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

There should be little instance of disease if basic cultural guidelines are followed. Whiteflies can be a pest of concern.

OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

Artist *Ageratums* should be grown outdoors only after the danger of frost has passed (approximately mid- to late May in Michigan). The foliage can be damaged from a very light frost. This recommendation is based on average spring weather and should be adjusted for unseasonably severe or unseasonably mild conditions.

OTHER TIPS

The Artist *Ageratums* can be grown much like a seed *Ageratum*. Their chief advantages are better form, continual flowering, and much better heat tolerance.

