

Solcito Zinnia

Z. maritima

Approximate Seed Count: 73,800 S./oz (2,600 S./g)

Plug Production

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.1 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC less than 0.75 mmhos/cm with a 1:2 extraction).

Sowing

Sow seed in 400 to 288-cell trays. In Europe, it can be sown in 264-cell trays. **Do not cover the seed – needs light to germinate.**

Stage 1 – Germination takes about 3 days

Soil temperature: 70 to 75°F (21 to 24°C)

Light: Light is beneficial to germination. Dark conditions will cause the seedlings to stretch.

Moisture: Keep soil wet (level 4) during Stage 1

Humidity: Maintain 95%+ relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

Stage 2

Soil temperature: 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°C)

Light: Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

Moisture: Reduce soil moisture slightly (level 3) to allow the roots to penetrate into the media.

Fertilizer: Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (less than 100 ppm N/less than 0.7 mS/cm EC) from nitrate form fertilizers with low phosphorous.

Stage 3

Soil temperature: 64 to 68°F (18 to 20°C)

Light: Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

Moisture: Allow media to dry until the surface becomes light brown (level 2) before watering. Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

Fertilizer: Increase fertilizer to rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC).

Growth Regulators: Not needed.

Stage 4

Soil temperature: 62 to 64°F (17 to 18°C)

Light: Up to 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

Moisture: Maintain moisture on the dry side, but don't allow seedlings to wilt.

Fertilizer: Same as Stage 3.

Growing On to Finish

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: 60 to 66°F (16 to 19°C)

Days: 64 to 72°F (19 to 22°C)

Light

As high as possible, if temperature can be controlled.

Irrigation

Avoid both excessive watering and drought. Do not allow plants to wilt.

Fertilizer

Apply fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N/1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm EC) once a week from calcium/potassium nitrate fertilizer. A balanced ammonium and nitrate form fertilizer may be applied as needed.

Growth Regulators

In North American conditions: Responds well to spray of B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) at 2,500 to 5,000 ppm (3.0 to 6.0 g/l, 85% formulation or 4.0 to 7.8 g/l, 64% formulation), starting at 2 weeks after transplant. Repeat 10 days later.

In Northern European conditions: 2 applications of a tank mix of B-Nine/Alar at 1,600 ppm (1.9 g/l, 85% formulation 2.5g/l, 64% formulation) and Cycocel at 185 ppm (1.3 ml/l, 11.8% formulation or 0.25ml/l, 75% formulation) works best.

Pinching

Pinching is not needed.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (400 to 288-cell plug tray): 4 to 5 weeks

Transplant to finish:

Container Size	Plants Per Pot	Weeks From Transplant	Total Weeks
306 Premium Pack	1	6-7	11-12
4-4.5 in. (10-11 cm) pot	1	6-7	11-12
6-6.5 in. (15-16 cm) pot	3	6-7	11-12

Common Problems

Insect: No known insect problems

Disease: No known disease problems

Note: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

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