# **CUT FLOWER CULTURE**

**culture** greenhouse/open field **sowing method** TP/DS

#### sowing season

mid spring (NL wk 16-17) or mid summer (NL wk 29)

**germ temp.** 17°C (62,6°F) **growing temp.** 16-21°C (60-70°F)

plug crop time 8 weeks

### crop duration

6-10 months

#### seed requirement

144 seeds/1 m<sup>2</sup> (13 seeds/ft<sup>2</sup>)of greenhouse area

#### pests/diseases

Botrytis, aphids. Treat preventatively.

#### fertilization (f)

Moderate to normal requirement, low on N.

# **SOWING DETAILS**

- Direct sowing (DS): See cultivation tip below.
- Pre-sow and transplant (TP):
- Optimum sowing mix: 60% peat and 40% sand. Add 4 kg of Dolomite lime and 500 grams of compound fertilizer (15-15-15 + trace elements) to 1 m3 (cubic metre) of the soil mix.
- Sow 2,4 grams for 1 m² (13 seeds/ft²) greenhouse area in trays or benches of 15 cm deep. Do not pre-soak the seeds.
- Cover lightly with soil

davs 0 - 14

- (m) level 4 (drip irrigation and high humidity)
- (t) 17°C (62,6°F) exactly!

weeks 3 to 8

- (m) level 3 4
- (t) 16-21°C (60-70°F)
- (f) see above

Transplant before the third leaf pair has developed.

## **GROWING ON**

#### soil/media

well-drained fertile, moisture holding soil

#### netting

Netting is advised.

## pinching

Pinching is not needed.

#### plant density

Approx. 45 plants per m<sup>2</sup> (4 plants per ft<sup>2</sup>). Thin out where crowded.

#### moisture (m)

Drip irrigation is advised. Keep soil moist (level 4) for 6 weeks after planting . Then level 3-4. In autumn level 2-3. In winter level 1.

#### temperature (t)

day: 16-21°C (60-70°F). night: 7-13°C (45-55°F). Place under glass as from late summer (NL late August-early September). Avoid frost.

## light (I)

High light requirement. Do not shade. Good air circulation is important.

# **CULTIVATION TIPS**

## • Direct sowing (DS):

Mix the required seeds for 1 bed (with some Brassicol powder) in 70% peat dust and 30% sand. Moisten well and cover with plastic. Keep temperature at exactly 17ºC (62,6ºF). Broadcast after 10-14 days when the seeds have formed a small root and sowing is still possible. Cover the sowing with 2 cm (0,4 in) of peat.

# **NOTE**

- Sow mid spring for autumn greenhouse harvest (NL week 40-46). Sow until mid summer for harvest in spring (NL week 10-18). Freesia cannot stand frost.
- Flower buds start developing mid/late summer. When placed under glass the stems grow longer with the foliage.

# **HARVEST**

Harvest with a side-branch. Postpone harvesting (early autumn) until a flower opens in order to have sufficient stem length.

moisture levels (m): 1 = dry 2 = normal to dry 3 = normal 4 = moist 5 = wet