

# Ageratum houstonianum F1 Blue planet (Cut flower)



<b>Life cycle</b>	Annual
<b>Family/origin</b>	Compositae/Mexico, Central America
<b>Popular uses</b>	Cut flower, tall bedding, patio containers
<b>Mature plant height</b>	70-80 cm (28-32")
<b>Mature plant width</b>	25-35 cm (10-14")
<b>Pot size</b>	12-15 cm (5-6") pots, multiples in 20 cm/8" or larger
<b>Plants per pot</b>	1 per 12-15 cm (5-6") pots; 3 per 20 cm/8"
<b>Sun exposure</b>	Full sun or partial shades
<b>Water requirements</b>	Moderate. Growing too dry may result in red-edged or yellow leaves
<b>Flowering time</b>	Entire growing season
<b>Media</b>	Select a well-drained sterile cut flower bed in full sun with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and a low nutrient charge
<b>Growing temperature</b>	Temperature for active growth 15°C (58°F) at night, 16-18°C (60-64°F) at day time
<b>Light</b>	Optimum light level is up to 75,000 lux (7,000 fc)
<b>Fertilizer needs</b>	Well balanced calcium nitrate based formulations work well to build strong and healthy plants Optimum EC 1.4-1.8 (175 to 225 ppm) Avoid excess nitrogen as it promotes overgrowth, invites disease and reduces vase life
<b>Crop time</b>	12-15 weeks
<b>Hardiness zone</b>	N/A



*Blue planet (cut flower)*

### Single stemmed culture

Space plants 10x10 cm (4x4") apart in beds and provide support netting  
Raise netting as the plants grow  
Do not pinch the plants

### Multiple stemmed culture

Space plants 20x20 cm (8x8") apart and pinch the growing tip to induce side branching. This will result in a heavy crop of high quality cut flowers

### Growth regulators

Ageratum responds to: Daminozide (Dazide, B-nine) Chlormequat (Cycocel)

### Common diseases

Botrytis blight, Rhizoctonia, Rust, Pythium, Fusarium Powdery mildew

### Common pests

Spider mites, Thrips, Aphids and Whitefly

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## Plug Production



<b>Seed forms</b>	Raw and pelleted
<b>Seed count</b>	6,000 sds/gr (170,000 sds/oz) <i>Varies by lot!</i>
<b>Seeds cell</b>	1
<b>Vermiculite cover</b>	No
<b>Stage 1 Germination</b>	Temperature: 20-22°C (68-72°F) growing medium temperature Radicle emergence will occur in 7-10 days, keep media wet
<b>Stage 2 Stem and cotyledon</b>	Keep media moist, temperature can to 18°C (64°F) growing medium temperature reduce moisture levels to obtain optimum root penetration and to prevent fungal diseases. Prevent wet foliage after nightfall
<b>Stage 3 Growth and development</b>	Temperature days 18°C (64°F) Fertilizers: EC 0,5-1.0 (50-75 ppm), reduce moisture Allow to dry slightly between watering without wilting. Water early in the morning to allow foliage to dry before nightfall
<b>Stage 4 Ready for transplanting</b>	Temperature can be dropped to 16-18°C (60-64°F) Lower temperatures and wet conditions may result in poor growth and leaf chlorosis Allow media to dry between watering but avoid wilting Fertilizers: EC 0,5-1.0 (50-75 ppm); do not exceed levels of over 1.0 to prevent root problems do not delay transport
<b>Plug crop time</b>	5-6 weeks
<b>Approximate finish time</b>	For summer production allow 12 weeks from sowing and 15 weeks for winter production. The first flower is usually removed to create a flush of flowers. The flowers should be well-colored before cutting
<b>Special tips</b>	Growing on: Optimum light level is up to 75,000 lux (7,000 fc) Whitewashing the glass may be necessary May-September to reduce light intensity. Extending the photoperiod in winter to 16 hours is recommended to ensure sufficient stem length and improve flower quality