

Minimum Germination Rate: 90%

Seed Product Form: Raw

FLOWERING

Time Frame when plants are receptive to flower initiation: Days 16 – 20; 6 – 8 true leaves present.

Flowering Type: Facultative Long Day Plant – long days enhance for flowering.

Specific Flowering Mechanism: Maturity and warm temperatures trigger flowering. Irradiance will improve bud counts.

PLUG CULTURE

Germination – *Optimum conditions for seedling development that begins the day the crop is sown until cotyledon expansion.*

Expect radicle emergence in 4 – 6 days.

Cover: Cover seeds with a thin layer of medium sized vermiculite to maintain moisture levels.

Media: • pH: 5.8 – 6.2
• EC: 0.5 – 0.75

Light: Light has no effect on germination of 'Kiss' Gazania. If utilizing a chamber, providing a light source of 10 – 100 foot candles (100 – 1000 lux) will improve germination and reduce stretch.

Moisture: Moist (3) for days 1 – 3 or until radicle emergence. On days 4 – 14, reduce moisture to medium (2). Beginning day 15; alternate between moisture levels moist (3) and medium (2) until cotyledon expansion. Allow media to approach level (2) before re-saturating to level (3).

Humidity: 100% until radicle emergence then reduce to 40%.

Dehumidify: Provide horizontal airflow to aid in drying down the media through evapotranspiration, allowing better penetration of oxygen to the roots.

Temperature: 70° – 75°F (21° – 24°C) until radicle emergence. Then lower to 65° – 68°F (18° – 20°C) until cotyledon expansion.

Plug Bulking – *Optimum conditions during the vegetative period, beginning at cotyledon expansion, needed for the root to reach the edge of the plug cell.*

Media: • pH: 5.8 – 6.2
• EC: 0.75 – 1.0

Light: Under low light conditions, supplemental light for a 14 – 16 hour day may be necessary to produce a compact, sturdy seedling.

Temperature: 65° – 68°F (18° – 20°C). Gradually reduce temperatures to 62° – 65°F (16° – 18°C) as the seedlings mature.

Moisture: Alternate between moisture levels moist (3) and medium (2). Allow media to approach level (2) before re-saturating to level (3).

Humidity: 40 – 70%

Dehumidify: Provide horizontal airflow to aid in drying down the media through evapotranspiration, allowing better penetration of oxygen to the roots.

Fertilizers: Feed 1 – 2 times per week at 100 – 200 ppm Nitrogen. Under high light conditions, apply an ammonium-based feed (17-5-17). Under low light conditions, apply a calcium-based feed (14-4-14). Under high light and long or extended days, an ammonium-based feed (20-10-20) is preferred.

Growth Regulators: 'Kiss' has been bred for a naturally bushy compact habit. Growth regulators are not required under normal growing regimes. If desired, apply B-Nine (daminozide) at 2500 ppm.

GROWING ON

Transplant Ready: 5 – 6 weeks from sow in a '288' tray.

Finish Bulking/Flower Initiation – *Optimum conditions during the vegetative period, beginning at transplant, needed for the root to reach the edge of the container; AND to make the plant receptive to flower initiation.*

Media: • pH: 5.8 – 6.2
• EC: 1.0 – 1.5

Light: Provide full sun.

Temperature: After transplants are established, reduce night temperatures to 55° – 60°F (12° – 16°C), with moderate day temperatures.

Moisture: Alternate between moisture levels wet (4) and dry (1.5) Allow media to approach level (1.5) before re-saturating to level (4).

Humidity: 40 – 70%

Dehumidify: Provide horizontal airflow to aid in drying down the media through evapotranspiration, allowing better penetration of oxygen to the roots.

Fertilizers: 150 – 200 ppm Nitrogen as needed with a fertilizer containing low amounts of ammonium and phosphorus.

Growth Regulators: 'Kiss' has been bred for a naturally bushy compact habit. Growth regulators are not required under normal growing regimes. If needed, Gazania responds to Cycocel (chlormequat chloride) or B-Nine (daminozide). When temperatures exceed 80°F (26°C), a tank mix of B-nine/Cycocel may prove more effective.

Common Diseases: Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Sclerotinia

Common Pests: Thrips, Spider Mite, Aphids

SCHEDULING

Total crop time: 13 – 15 weeks

'288' Plug crop time: 5 – 6 weeks

Transplant to finish crop time: **4" crop:** 8 – 10 weeks

6" crop: 9 – 11 weeks

PRODUCT USE

Large packs, pots, containers, border edgings, mass plantings

GARDEN SPECIFICATIONS

Light: Full sun

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8

AHS Heat Zone: 12 – 3

Garden Height: 8 – 10 inches (20 – 25 cm)

Garden Width: 8 – 10 inches (20 – 25 cm)