

# Celosia Dragon's Breath

<b>Plant type:</b>	Annual plant.
<b>Uses:</b>	Pot plant and patio containers
<b>Flowering period:</b>	Spring and Summer
<b>Plant height:</b>	60cm
<b>Spread:</b>	40cm
<b>Ball 104 tray:</b>	4 weeks crop in packs (green stage) 6 week crop in 10cm pots (green stage) 14 week crop in 3-5 litre pots (with flower)
<b>Sowing:</b>	<p>Sow seeds in a well-drained soil mix and cover lightly with medium vermiculite or media. Provide a soil temperature of 25°C. Germination takes place in 7 to 10 days. Since the root system is very delicate, so sowing directly into plug cells is recommended rather than sowing into open flat trays.</p> <p>After seedlings emerge, place flats in a well-ventilated area and reduce the temperature to 20-22°C during the day and 18-20°C at night. Fertilize plugs lightly with 50-100 ppm N. Over watering will promote disease; especially damping off and botrytis.</p>
<b>Growing on:</b>	
Temperature	18-25°C
pH	5.8 – 6.0
Feeding	<p>To promote bright red foliage avoid applying excess Nitrogen, which promotes green leaves; especially when planted in the landscape (treat them a bit 'mean').</p> <p>Apply 100 ppm N biweekly targeting the EC at 0.7 - 0.8</p> <p>It is important to supply sufficient amounts of Potassium in the fertilizer as a lack of Potassium causes weaker stems and abnormal shaped flowers. Therefore, a high potassium formulation, such as 15-10-30, works well and is highly recommended.</p>
Compost	Pot into a well aerated compost with a base feed.
Pot size	13 – 15cm pots

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

## *Culture Information*

Growth regulation	Normally not needed but depending on pot size and required plant height, Celosia reacts very well on Daminozide. Do not pinch.
Advice	<p>Make sure special care is taken when removing plugs from the trays to avoid damaging the delicate roots. Avoid transplanting plugs too deep to prevent Rhizoctinia.</p> <p>Plants respond with a deepening red foliage colour with high UV light. Growing under glass or shading will reduce the distinct red coloured foliage. Plants will turn red in about 1 week of being given high UV.</p> <p>Plants generate vegetative growth in long days (&gt;14 hrs) and plumage/flower during the summer going into shorter days (&lt;14 hours). Complete production under long day conditions is advised for pot sizes &gt; 17 cm.</p>
Common pests	Thrips and Aphids
Common diseases	Celosia is susceptible to Pythium, Downy mildew, botrytis, Rhizoctonia

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