

Phlox 21st Century

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| Plant type: | Tender annual |
| Uses: | Pot plants, garden |
| Plant height: | 25 – 30cm |
| Sowing: | 18-21°C Germination in complete darkness for the first 3-5 days is required. Cover with an average layer of medium Vermiculite. Phlox are particularly susceptible to root diseases and a low rate pre-sowing fungicide compost drench may be useful. |
| Approximate crop timing (mid season) | |
| Sow mid February onwards with high light, long days: | |
| Sowing to flowering | 10 – 12 weeks |
| Sowing to transplanting | 3 – 4 weeks |
| The first true leaves should be well developed before transplanting. | |
| Growing on: | |
| Temperature | 10 –13°C Night to 13 – 15°C Day. Phlox can tolerate quite extremes of temperature. |
| Compost | Use a well drained, disease-free soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 – 6.2 and an initial medium level nutrient charge. |
| Feeding | The plants need a constant feeding regime, staying away from high amounts of ammonium and making sure that there is not a salt build up. Fertilise every other watering with 15 - 0 - 15 alternating with 20 - 10 - 20 at 150 to 200 ppm. |
| Growth regulation | A growth regulator of Daminozide can be applied if necessary starting 5 weeks after sowing. With holding fertiliser can control height, and also the use of negative DIF. Pinching is not necessary. |
| Pack/Pot size | Pack 10 – 13 pots or try 3 plants/15cm pot |
| Advice | Phlox root systems are delicate. Transplanting should be done into well moistened compost. Watering in should be done with a fine spray. Overwatering is a main cause of problems with Phlox. Irrigate plants before they are wilted severely to avoid damage. |
| Common diseases | Root diseases Pythium, Phytophthora, Fusarium are common. Use of preventative fungicide against them would be advised |
| Common pests | Thrip, Whitefly and Aphids. |

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.