

Sunflower (Pot Helianthus)

Plant type:	Annual
Uses:	Pot plant
Plant height:	30 – 45cm
Sowing:	Use a well-drained, disease-free media with a pH range of 5.5 to 6.0, and EC less than 0.75mS/cm. Cover seed with vermiculite or sand. Keep the substrate at a medium to medium-wet level during germination. Maintain 95 to 97% relative humidity until cotyledons emerge. Germination temperature: 20-22°C. Germination takes approximately 3-5 days.
Approximate crop timing	
Sowing to transplanting	2 - 3 weeks
Sowing to flowering	Choco Sun: 11-12 weeks Miss Sunshine: 9-11 weeks Pacino®: 10-12 weeks SunBuzz: 10-12 weeks Sunrich: 9-10 weeks Sunsation®: 9-10 weeks
Ball 104 to flowering	Sunsation®: 7-8 weeks
Growing on:	
Temperature	18 – 22°C day, 16 – 18°C night
pH	5.8 - 6.5
Feeding	The plants are high feeders. It is important to supply a regular balanced NPK feed, ideally at each watering. Increased Potassium can be used as buds develop.
Growth regulation	Is not essential, but Sunflowers can respond to Daminozide. Plants grown under short days may produce a taller plant; therefore, treatment would be more advantageous. PGR treatments will delay flowering by about 1-2 weeks.
Pack/Pot size	10cm to 15cm pots. For larger pots a seedling may require transplanting into a 9cm pot before potting on into final pot.
Advice	Do not overcrowd the plants as this will cause yellowing of foliage. Reduce overhead watering as the plant matures. Crop time is affected by day length and temperature; higher temperatures and longer days speed plant development.
Common diseases	Pythium root rot - a preventative fungicide spray can be used along with ensuring that the growing medium does not become waterlogged. Botrytis - if condensation or water is left on the growing tip as the flower bud develops.
Common pests	Thrips feeding on leaves, petals and pollen 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.