

Fleurettes Cultural Information

Fleurettes abound with delightful, dainty 1" to 1-1/2" daisy-like flowers. The cushion-shaped plants have a compact, spreading growth habit. Fleurettes' miniaturized dark green leaves may appear delicate, but prove exceptionally durable in shipping, contributing to the plants' excellent keeping qualities. It is imperative that Fleurettes be grown in small pots and bulb pans to take advantage of their naturally low-growing and spreading habits. Taller and larger containers simply don't do justice to these unique varieties.

Fleurettes can be flowered in containers ranging in size from 2" to 3" personal pots to large 10" bulb pans.

They can prove quite profitable to grow with their 6- and 7-week photoperiodic response time. Small pots may not need any long days. The excellent keeping qualities of Fleurettes can minimize "shrinkage" at the store level and provide a high level of consumer satisfaction for repeat sales.

General Culture

Root media, fertility regimens, photoperiodic response, light levels and temperatures are comparable to the requirements of pot mums.

Containers

Fleurettes are not recommended for 6" azalea pots. With their compact and spreading growth habits, Fleurettes will prove much more marketable when grown in bulb pans. Try growing/selling them in 5", 6", 7" and 10" bulb pans. There is also a definite niche for Fleurettes grown in small 2" and 3½" pots. Fleurettes trees are ideal for 4" standard pots.

Pinching

Pinching is optional for Fleurettes grown in 2" to 4" containers. When grown in larger containers, such as bulb pans, a pinch is necessary to help increase branching and spread. Pinching would normally be done 10 to 14 days after planting, when a healthy root system and adequate plant growth are evident.

Long Days

Since Fleurettes are best grown in shorter or smaller containers, fewer long days are needed. See Scheduling section for details.

Growth Regulators

B-Nine is effective in reducing Fleurettes' height. Small 2" pots may require weekly applications of B-Nine for best finished results, while quality 5" pans may receive 1 or 2 applications. The recommended strength to use is 2,500 ppm. 8" to 9" is an ideal finish height for 5" pan measured from the bottom of the pot to the flowering plane. This can also be higher or lower depending on the season. Bonzi and Sumagic can also be trialed as directed for pot mums.

Postharvest

Fleurettes have demonstrated excellent longevity traits in controlled keeping quality trials. Fleurettes commonly last between 3 and 4 weeks from harvest at Stage 3 of development under approximately 70 footcandles of light daily for 12 hours with 50% to 60% relative humidity.

Scheduling

Use the following guidelines for long days prior to short days for flowering.

Lighting Guidelines

Container	# Long Days	Target Height
2-2½"	0-7*	5"-6"
3-3½"	0-7*	6"-7"
4" tree+	21-28**	11"-14"
5" pan	0-10**	7"-8"
6" pan	3-13**	8"-9"
8" pan	7-17**	10"-11"

* Using unrooted cuttings.

** Using rooted cuttings. Add 5-7 days if using unrooted.

+ Pinch and move trees to short days at the end of the long day period.

Spacing Guidelines

Container	Spacing	# Plants
2" pot	7½-8½ sq. in.	1
3" pot	12-13 sq. in.	1
4" pot	30-40 sq. in.	1-3
4" tree	30-40 sq. in.	1
5" pan	70-90 sq. in.	3
6" pan	130-144 sq. in.	4-5
7" pan	156-196 sq. in.	5-6
8" pan	210-225 sq. in.	6-7
10" pan	272-306 sq. in.	8-9



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