

Variety Info

- Lisianthus are primarily produced for January through August sales.
- Little Bell Blue and Pink are bred for 4" to 4½" production. Numerous bell-shaped flowers form on compact, multi-branched plants without growth regulators. Excellent production for January through August flowerings.
- Maurine series are bred for 6" production. Plants finish 12" to 16" tall using growth regulators. Intermediate height suitable for bedding plants, potted flowering plants, or bouquet cut flowers. This series is heat tolerant and can be produced year-round without forming rosettes (non-flowering stems with closely stacked leaves), even during the warm months of July through October. Excellent for spring and summer sales.
- Double Dream mix is used for 4" or 6" production with finished heights of 6"-8" in 4" pots; 12" in 6" pot.
- King is best produced in 6" pots or in 4½" pots with extra growth regulators.

Handling Upon Receipt

- Unpack at once and place in greenhouse.
- Check plugs for dryness and water as needed.
- Plugs should be planted within a day or two of arrival.
- Lisianthus growth can be severely stunted if plants remain in plug tray too long. Root-bound plants do not root out properly after planting.

Planting

- Plant just deep enough to cover the root ball. Deep planting aggravates stem rot.

Root Medium

- The root medium should drain well with plenty of air space.
- pH must be at least 6.5. This pH is higher than recommended for most other crops, but is very important for reliable Lisianthus production. It may be necessary to avoid using bark-based root media, which generally are more acidic.
- Check root medium pH before planting and monitor during the crop cycle. Adjust as needed with liquid forms of limestone such as Cleary's Limestone F.

Irrigation

- Water quality (e.g., alkalinity, nutrient content, etc.) should be known to evaluate the potential effects on pH and plant nutrient availability.
- Plants are a little slow to establish after planting, so avoid overwatering early on.
- Maintain uniform moisture during production.
- Once plants flower, do not let plants wilt.

Fertilization

- Lisianthus responds favorably to high rates of fertilizer if the soil pH is 6.5. At lower pH, disease severity increases, root and shoot growth is reduced and micronutrient toxicities (chlorosis) can occur.
- Fertilizer options:
 - Controlled-release fertilizers like 14-14-14 or 19-6-12 at 8 to 10 lbs per cubic yard.
 - Constant fertilization with 350 ppm nitrogen from 20-10-20, alternated with a high calcium fertilizer such as 15-0-15 or 17-5-17.
 - Constant fertilization with 250 ppm nitrogen from these fertilizers combined with

5 lbs per cubic yard of controlled-release fertilizers.

- Plants produced with proper pH and fertilization exhibit thick, leathery leaves and good root development.
- Thin foliage, weak stems and poor roots suggest improper pH and fertilization.

Light & Temperature

- Lisianthus is a light-energy driven crop so provide maximum available light during production.
- Avoid shading with overhead crops. Low light increases time to flower and produces longer stems, which require more growth regulation.
- Provide minimum night temperatures of 62 to 65°F with 80 to 85°F day temperatures.

Spacing

- 4½": 8" x 8"
- 6": 10" x 10"
- Too close spacing quickly results in yellowed foliage.

Height Control

- Lisianthus flowers quickly on shorter stems under summer high-light conditions, so less height control is needed than in winter lower light when plants flower slowly and longer stems develop.
- Bonzi drenches work better than either Bonzi sprays or B-Nine sprays.
- Little Blue Bell, Little Pink Bell and **Double Dream series:**
 - Apply one to two drenches of Bonzi at 1 ppm for January through March flowering.
 - No growth regulators are required for flowerings April through August.

• Maurine and King Series:

- Apply two to three drenches of Bonzi at 2 to 3 ppm for January through March flowerings.
- Apply one to two applications of Bonzi at 2 to 3 ppm will give excellent height control for flowerings from April through August.
- Start Bonzi drenches 2 to 3 weeks after planting and repeat 2 to 3 weeks later if needed.
- One to four sprays of 3750 ppm B-Nine have also been used but are less effective than Bonzi drenches.

Pest Control

- Fungus gnats can cause major damage to the root system of Lisianthus. It is very important to keep levels of these pests to a minimum. Drenches with Distance at 2 to 3 oz per 100 gal give good control of fungus gnat larvae.
- Thrips and Whiteflies are also key pests to control.
- Sprays of Conserve at 22 oz per 100 gal or Tristar at two to four packets per 100 gal give good control of fungus gnats (adults), thrips and whiteflies.

Disease

- Fusarium Stem Rot is the most serious disease on Lisianthus. This disease is controlled by maintaining high root medium pH and by drenching with appropriate fungicides.
- After planting, drench with Medallion at 2 to 4 ounces per 100 gallons.
- Drench a second time 4 to 6 weeks later with Medallion or with a copper-based compound such as Phyton 27 or Camelot at 12 oz per 100 gallons.
- One or two sprays with Spectro 90 just before flowering will help prevent Botrytis and other fungal diseases at flowering.

Before using any pesticides, be sure that they are registered for use. Always follow label directions for use rates and application methods. The label is the law.

Key Points to Emphasize

- Provide higher than normal root medium pH of 6.5 with higher than normal fertility.

- Use preventative fungus gnat control measures.
- Use preventative Fusarium Stem Rot control measures.
- Market with many open flowers for indoor use.

Marketing Finished Plants

- Lisianthus flowers require high-light intensity to develop their true colors.
 - Plants sold for indoor potted use should be sold with at least half of the flowers open, since flowers opening under typical indoor lighting will be faded.
 - Plants sold for outdoors or patio use can be sold just as buds start to show color, since more light is available for opening flowers.
- Avoid wilting of flowering plants.

Crop Planning

Little Bell, Double Dream, King and Maurine Series Lisianthus · Weeks to finish under average conditions
Northern regions add 1 week in winter · South Florida subtract 1 week year round

Plug Size	Plugs per pot	Spring 3/1 to 5/20	Summer 5/21 to 9/15	Fall 9/16 to 11/30	Winter 12/1 to 2/28
36/72	1 per 4½" 2 to 3 per 6"	12-13	9-10	11-12	14
128	1 per 4½" 3 to 4 per 6"	13-14	10-11	12-13	15
288	2 to 3 per 4½" 4 to 6 per 6"	14-15	11-12	13-14	16



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