

Gypsophila - Culture Description

PREFACE: Gypsophila (also known as Baby's Breath) is characterized by an abundance of flowers, usually white and small and is mainly used as fillers in flower arrangements and bouquets. Gypsophila blooms naturally in summer, when days are long. Gypsophila flowers are to be found among the 10 leading crops in the Dutch auctions' sales.

FAMILY: Carophyllaceae **ORIGIN:** Europe & Asia

USAGE: As a filler in the bouquet industry and can also be arranged in a vase alone without additional flowers.

GROWING ENVIRONMENT: In greenhouses, tunnels and open fields.

SOIL: All types of drained soils, light soils are preferable, and on detached medias such as volcanic ash.

RECOMMENDED TEMPERATURE: 15 OC during night and 25OC during day (sensitive under 5OC).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

LIGHTING: When daylight is less than 12-13 hours and depending on the environment's temperature and light intensities, a lighting system of 100-lux is employed.

The GA hormone is sprayed usually after the pruning stage and when growth is delayed (dosage 150 ppm).

IRRIGATION: 2-3 drip lines and an overhead system.

PLANTING DENSITY: Depends on the variety* – 6-8 plants per square meter net or alternatively 40,000-50,000 plants per hectare = 10,000 square meters gross.

Bed width should be 1 meter wide and the paths between beds 0.50 meter.

EXPECTED YIELD: Depends on the variety* and the number of flushes – an average of approx. 35,000-50,000 branches per flush / dunam, (350,000 - 500,000 branches per flush/ hectare).

Commercial flowering flushes per year – 2-2.5, meaning a total of 70,000 - 100,000 flowers per dunam/year, (700,000-1,000,000 flowers per hectare/ year).

FLOWERING FLUSH DURATION: About 3 months after planting / pruning, depending on the variety and the geographical and physical location of the crop.

REQUIRED ACTIONS: Planting, establishment of plants, pinching, using supporting nets, application of excess lighting according to season and variety and the regular irrigation & plant protection treatments. After the second flush plants are pruned usually 2-3 cm. above ground level, 1-2 GA hormone sprayings are applied, supporting nets are used (2 nets and number of lengthwise cords) and then the regular irrigation and sprayings treatments should be given according to requirement.

SENSITIVITY TO DISEASES & PESTS: Depends on the variety*: alternaria rhizoctonia, pitium, powdery mildew, leaf miner, mites, aphids, caterpillars, thrips.

HARVESTED FLOWER TREATMENT: The harvested flowers should be placed quickly in solution or water. The solution should consist: S.T.S -0.15% + T.O.G.3 - 0.15 % + sugar-5% in summer, and 7% in winter (or alternatively Vitax 21 – 0.15% corresponding to S.T.S., Vitax 33 – 0.15% corresponding to T.O.G3 + sugar 5-7% depending on season, or another option, using 'Forever Gypsophila' – 0.5% + sugar).

* Please see specific instructions according to variety.

The cultural instructions presented here should be regarded as general guidelines. It is advised to make necessary adjustments when growing in different climatic conditions and agricultural practices.

Danziger – "Dan" Flower Farm is not responsible for any damage caused by implementation of the recommendations.