

## Limonium Altaica – Safora® - Culture Description

**PREFACE:** Limonium consists of about 150 types. It is a good source for unique and qualitative varieties of the cut flowers. The many different Limonium types form very stable branches with big volumes of inflorescences and an abundance of small colorful flowers that excel with very long vase-life.

Due to the fact that no exceptional growing conditions are required, such as heating or artificial lighting, the grower finds this a very convenient crop to deal with. Harvest is very easy and the finished product stays fresh for a long time.

Our **Limonium Altaica** – the **Safora®** series has impressive yield, dense inflorescences, and very high resistance to disease and to harsh conditions. The stems are qualitative and relatively long. This group does not require the cold treatment and it is a perennial crop.

**FAMILY:** Plumbaginaceae

**ORIGIN:** Littoral, swamp and desert-like regions around the globe.

**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, in accordance to the geographical location.

**SOIL:** All types of drained soils or on detached medias such as pumice / volcanic ash

**RECOMMENDED TEMPERATURE:** 15°C during night 25°C during day (sensitive to temperatures above 30°C).

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

**PLANTING DENSITY:** 5-6 plants per square meter net, 4,000 plants per dunam and about 40,000 plants per hectare.

**FLOWERING FLUSH DURATION:** From planting to flowering about 3-4 months. Second flush – 2–3 months after the first flowering flush (depending on climatic conditions). **NUMBER OF FLUSHES PER YEAR:** 2 - 3 flushes.

**EXPECTED YIELD PER YEAR:** Approx. 20-30 branches per plant /year, a total of 80,000 commercial branches per dunam & 800,000 branches per hectare.

**REQUIRED ACTIONS:** Planting, establishment of plants, performing a number of pinches of the main branch and side stems in order to allow a wide rosette base. Usually 2 GA treatments are applied when rosette is approx 30-40 cm wide, and then stems elongate upward until flowering.

**SENSITIVITY TO DISEASES & PESTS:** Powdery mildew, downy mildew, rust, thrips, nematodes and caterpillars.

**HARVESTED FLOWER TREATMENT:** Recommended solution: S.T.S.-0.3% + T.O.G3 -0.3% + 10% sugar. Flowers should be kept in solution for 8-24 hours under packinghouse conditions and then kept in the cool room under a temperature of 2-4 degrees for a minimum of 12 hours. After flowers were kept in solution it is advisable to use 'Long Life' or alternatively other post harvest nutrition in order to allow reopening of the flowers.

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.