

# easy grow guide

## ageratum cloud nine

(F1 Ageratum houstonianum)



### Plug Production: 512 or 288 plugs

<b>Sowing/Media:</b>	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.5-5.8, EC <0.75 mmhos.
<b>Germination Stage 1: (4-5 days)</b>	Media should be saturated and humidity needs to be high until radicle emergence. Temperature should be 72-75°F (22-24°C). Light is required for germination so no covering is needed but a very thin layer of vermiculite can be used.
<b>Germination Stage 2: (6-14 days)</b>	Once radicles emerge, media temperature can be lowered to 65-70°F (18-21°C). Once cotyledons are fully open, dry the media down to moist and maintain even moisture. Humidity can also be reduced by half. Keep light levels between 2500 and 3000 f.c. HID lights can be used to boost light levels during periods of low light.
<b>Germination Stages 3&amp;4:</b>	Temperature can be kept around 63-68°F (17-20°C). Dry media down slightly between irrigations but avoid wilt as leaves can scorch. Keep light levels around 2500 and 3000 f.c. Fertilize as required using balanced calcium fertiliser such as a 15-5-15 or 17-5-17 at 50-75ppm initially and increasing to 100ppm as seedlings develop. Keep media pH at 5.5-5.8 and EC <1.0 mmhos. Growth regulators are not usually required 1-2 doses of B-Nine are effective at 2500-5000ppm to tone seedlings prior to transplant/shipping.

### Growing On to Finish: Packs, 4" (10cm) pots

<b>Media:</b>	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.8-6.2 and EC <1.2 mmhos.
<b>Temperatures:</b>	Day temperatures should be 69-73°F (21-23°C), night temperatures can be 62-65°F (16-18°C).
<b>Light:</b>	Light levels should be maintained at 2500 and 3000 f.c. Ageratum is a facultative long day plant so HID lights can be used to extend day length beyond 14 hours and shorten crop time, or just as a boost during periods of low light.
<b>Irrigation:</b>	Practice a good wet/dry moisture cycle but avoid wilt as this can cause leaf scorch.
<b>Fertilizer:</b>	Feed once per week with 100 – 150ppm N from a balanced fertiliser such as 15-5-15, 17-5-17. Over feeding can promote leafy plants and delay flowering so avoid excess fertiliser. Keep media pH 5.8-6.2 and EC <1.2 mmhos.
<b>Growth Regulators:</b>	Good moisture and fertiliser management combined with the correct light levels and temperatures should limit the need for PGRs. However if required, sprays of B-Nine are effective at 2500-5000ppm It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements.
<b>Pests:</b>	Aphids, Thrips. Whitefly
<b>Diseases:</b>	Pythium, Botrytis, Fusarium, Rhizoctonia

### Plug Times:

<b>512 Plug:</b>	4-5 weeks from sowing to transplant
<b>288 plug:</b>	5-6 weeks from sowing to transplant

### Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to Finish	Total Crop Time
<b>Packs</b>	1 x plug	4-5 weeks	8-10 weeks
<b>4 inch (10cm):</b>	1 x plug	5-6 weeks	9-11 weeks

Crop times are based on optimum conditions. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can lengthen the crop times stated above.