



# plant potential

FOR THE PROFESSIONAL GROWER

## Culture Tips: How to Produce a Healthy Zinnia Crop

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Zinnias are great bedding plants for the hot, dry conditions that exist during summer in some areas of the country. With five different series—Magellan™, Short Stuff™, Swizzle™, Uproar™ and Zowie!™—Syngenta Flowers has a zinnia for every garden!

To produce a quality zinnia crop, always start with top-quality seed. All Syngenta Flowers zinnia seed is tested and cleaned to ensure optimum germination; seed is available in raw or coated form with a minimum germination rate of 85 percent.

Zinnias are susceptible to a number of diseases, including powdery mildew, botrytis and bacterial leaf spot, which make strict sanitation practices a necessity. To eliminate any pathogens that may be present, clean and sterilize benches and growing areas prior to sowing and transplant. Use a clean and reliable soil mix; for propagation, try Fafard SFGM, #2, F15 or 1P. For finishing, Fafard #2, F15 or 1P are recommended for northern growers; 4P, 3B or 3M are well-suited for southern growers. Good air circulation and water management are essential throughout production to finish healthy zinnias.

Provide horizontal airflow to aid in drying down the media through evapotranspiration. Water the crop early in the day to minimize the potential for disease outbreaks by allowing the foliage to dry thoroughly before nightfall.

Implement these simple cultural tips to finish a successful zinnia crop.

[Click here for more culture information on zinnia.](#)