



**RoyalVanZanten**

## *Cultivating Aster Crown®*

### **General information**

The Aster Crown® is a short-day plant that is cultivated inside can be grown both indoors or outdoors once it has been sold. In the garden it is particularly suitable for use in pots or borders where it will flower beautifully for a number of weeks. The plant requires little maintenance. Cultivation can begin from week 5 under assimilation lights and from week 12 under cyclical lighting with 15 watt per m<sup>2</sup>

The following types are available:

- |                         |   |           |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| • Aster Crown Duke®     | - | pink      |
| • Aster Crown Diamond®  | - | white     |
| • Aster Crown Dynasty®  | - | purple    |
| • Aster Crown Fortuna ® | - | dark pink |

### **Basic stock**

The Aster Crown® is normally delivered without roots and the cuttings have already been treated with rooting hormone when they are supplied.

### **Pot size**

The Aster Crown® can be cultivated in a variety of pot sizes The 12 cm pot which has 3 cuttings is the most commonly used.

### **Rooting**

Depending on the time of year Asters may be lit during the rooting phase to provide an 18 hour day. Aster Crown® are set in an airy, potting compost with good drainage capabilities to which a stock fertiliser such as 5 kg Dolomite and 1 kg of pg mix have been added per m<sup>3</sup>. After setting the plants are covered with transparent sheet until week 15 and after that with milk-white sheeting that lies loose of the cuttings. Rooting takes +/- 7 days and it is not necessary to give the cuttings preventative treatment against botrytis immediately after setting. Once the cuttings have rooted the sheeting can be removed. This should preferably be done in the evening.

### **Topping**

The plants are topped after 13-14 days at the 5-6 leaf pair. Once they are set out at their final distance they should be topped / mowed again and this may be necessary a third time

### **Setting out**

Setting out is done 5-7 days after topping immediately in the short-day. So the plants have now had 18-21 long-days.

The final distances are as follows:

10.5 cm pots at 24-28 per m<sup>2</sup>.

12 cm pots at 22-26 per m<sup>2</sup>.



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### Climate

With the Aster Crown® the daytime temperature is maintained at 19°C and the night-time temperature that 21°C. The ventilation temperature is 1°C higher than this. A light increase of 4-6°C can be set on the ventilation if desired. Because of its susceptibility to mildew it is advisable to keep the RH below 85%. Because mildew can be caused by too much ventilation it is advisable to limit the ventilation on the windward side when it is very windy.

### Growth regulators

One week after topping the plants' growth is inhibited for the first time with 200 – 300 gr Alar per 100-litre water. During cultivation inhibitors are used a maximum of 3 – 4 times. The Diamond® has the most growing vitality, followed by the Duke® and then the Dynasty® and Fortuna®. The target height for the Aster Crown® is 25 – 30cm (underside of pot to flower).

### Fertilisation

Fertilising is done with a K-N proportion of 1: 2.  
Set the EC to 1.5 – 2.0.

Target values for fertilising the Aster Crown® in mmol:

| EC  | PH  | NH4  | K   | Na   | Ca  | Mg  | NO3 | Cl   |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 0.8 | 5.8 | <0.1 | 1.6 | <1.0 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 4.0 | <1.0 |

| SO4 | HCO3 | P   | Fe  | Mn  | Zn  | B  | Cu  |
|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| 0.8 | 0.5  | 0.5 | 8.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 15 | 0.7 |

### Blacking out

The Aster Crown® is short-day plant, which means that buds will only form if the night is longer than the day. To promote bud formation the plants have to be blacked out for 13 hours from 18.00 to 07.00 for example.

Reaction times for the different types are as follows.

- Aster Crown Duke® - 35 days
- Aster Crown Diamond® - 42 days
- Aster Crown Dynasty® - 35 days
- Aster Crown Fortuna

If necessary a draught split can be used 1.15 hours after sunset and 1.15 hours before sunrise.

### Plant protection

It is known that Asters are susceptible to mildew and so preventative spraying is necessary. Good results can be achieved with Kenbyo (kresoxim-methyl).

**Be careful:** Asters are susceptible to Eupareen (tolylfluamide) and you should be on your guard against aphids, thrips and leaf miners.



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### **Sales**

Aster Crown® can be sold with or without sleeves.

### **Conclusion**

The Aster Crown® distinguishes itself from the other Aster series by:

- Faster cultivation
- Less growth inhibitors needed
- Less topping or mowing

Royal Van Zanten wishes you every success with the cultivation of Aster Crown®.

This description of cultivation methods is intended for information only. Royal Van Zanten cannot be held liable for any errors (or mistakes) arising from said advice.

### **More information:**

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