

CULTURE ADVICE

Cleoma

Description:	Upright, bushy solitary plant with spider-like, pink-violet flowers in filigree foliage suitable for places exposed to full sunlight. Great also in combinations as a structure-giving element. Extremely attractive, flowering until late in autumn. Bee-attracting plant! Ideal flowering plant in hanging baskets, balcony flower boxes, vessels and in beds exposed to full sunlight. Flowers until the first frost periods in autumn. Growth height: 80 to 100 cm.
Potting:	12 - 14 cm pots; 28 - 22 plants/m ² ; calendar weeks 10 to 14
Substrate:	Well-drained substrate of type 2 (addition of perlite has positive effect). pH approx. 5.5
Fertilization:	Very consumptive, 0.3% complete fertilizer twice a week, with iron and/or trace element portion where possible. If iron deficiency symptoms occur, they can easily be remedied with conventional iron chelate fertilizers.
Temperature:	Start at 18 °C, finish cultivation at 12 - 14 °C.
Light:	Full light, no shadow.
Flowering:	Approx. 10 weeks after potting. When potted early in March, first flowers will appear as from mid-May. Sets cultivated at a later time will bloom earlier (reaction to light).
Growth regulators:	In order to improve branching, apply Regalis (0.25 %) once early in the cultivation period. Compact growth is assisted by application of 1 - 2 x 0.05% Topflor or 0.15 % CCC. Caramba 0.05 % also shows a good effect.
Pinching:	Pinching is not absolutely necessary. However, if branching is not satisfactory, some trimming or shaping is recommended to get a better plant build-up. 1 to 2 weeks after potting or immediately in case of a suitable young plant size.
Diseases / pest:	Avoid low light conditions and wet foliage during cultivation. As a precaution, spray the plants to keep off spider mites.

Water balance is of importance; the plants must not stand too wet, danger of botrytis, damage to roots and irregular plant build-up are the consequences.

Updated: 08/09/2009