

## CULTURE ADVICE

### Gaura

<b>Description:</b>	Originally, <i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> (Lindheimer's beeblossom) is a bushy plant native to the prairies of North America. It first forms a rosette close to the ground from which rise long, elegant panicles. Very beautiful when mixed with other plants in tubs, primarily in the background, but also in flower beds. Prefers places in full sunlight. Consumer tip: Great plant producing flowers over a long period, very elegant and fragrant. Panicles branch during summer and produce flowers over and over again. Easy to handle; bee-attracting plant! Planted out in the garden, it is a flower bed plant that does not need much attention; final height: approx. 1 metre.
<b>Potting:</b>	Up to 12 cm pot; 46 plants/m <sup>2</sup> ; weeks 6 - 10
<b>Substrate:</b>	Well-drained, loose substrate with clay portion, pH 5.5 - 6
<b>Fertilization:</b>	Moderately consumptive, weekly liquid fertilization with a 0.15 to 0.25 % complete fertilizer.
<b>Temperature:</b>	Start at 16 - 18 °C, lower to 14 - 16 °C after 3 to 4 weeks.
<b>Light:</b>	Full light, no shadow. Obligatory long-day plant! Only the rosette grows under short-day conditions, so do not pot too early. Supplementary light for 2 to 3 hours to extend the day promotes flower formation in poor-light periods.
<b>Flowering:</b>	Starts in mid-April depending on light conditions (if no extra light is used).
<b>Growth regulators:</b>	Growth regulation is not absolutely necessary. If necessary, apply Topflor 0.05 % one to three times.
<b>Pinching:</b>	Lopping or shaping is recommended in order to get a better plant build-up. Approx. 1 week after potting or immediately in case of a suitable young plant size.
<b>Diseases / pest:</b>	White fly, plant lice, thrips. Regularly shaped black or red spots on the leaves are normally not pathogenous but genetically determined.

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