

# Grower's Facts

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## Zinnia

*Zinnia elegans Zinderella Lilac*

**PLANTATION:** Zinnias can be started from seed indoors just transplant them while they are young and do so carefully because they do not like to be transplanted. Sow the seeds 4-5 weeks before the last frost. Keep the temperature between 20-22 °C. Germination time is between 7-10 days.

**Outdoor:** Sow directly in the garden at the end of May.

**Maturity:** 8-10 weeks.

**SOIL: Indoor:** A well-drained, porous sowing media is best to prevent overwatering.

**Outdoor:** Well-drained, rich soil.

### PLANTING:

**Step 1:** plow the soil about 30 cm (12 inches). Add an equal part of potting soil and mix well. Dig a hole approximately the same length as the container and about 1 ½ to 3 times the width.

**Step 2:** slightly squeeze the container, tap out the plant, and delicately free the roots. If the roots are too dense, liberate the fibers by inserting a knife or a transplanter. Separate the roots carefully, and then place in the hole.

**\* Good to know:** Use an organic bone meal or a «soil activator» when transplanting to stimulate root development. Follow the instructions for use on the package.

Fill up the hole with garden soil. Slightly press the soil around the base of the plant to favor the contact between the roots and the soil. Water regularly every 2 or 3 days until the soil is well compacted.

**Note:** Choosing a location that gets full sun is essential. Good air circulation will help to prevent foliar diseases such as powdery mildew later in the season. Zinnias are adaptable to most soil conditions, but the ideal soil will be rich in organic matter and well-drained. If soil is amended with compost, the flowers will grow more quickly.