

Aster Callistephus Meteor Series

Ball™

- *Perfect for solid bunches and bouquets*
- *Adds colour to break the monotony*
- *Suitable for cut flower greenhouse or field production*

Aster Callistephus are an old time favorite that have never gone out of style.

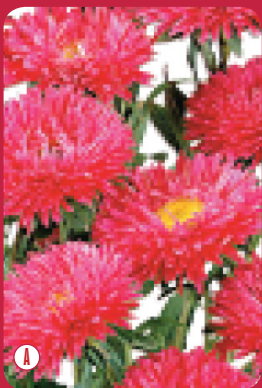
They were introduced in the Ball Company by George Ball himself in the early nineteen hundreds.

The Aster Callistephus family is a big one, and has flowers that come in many bright colors and different sizes.

Very versatile since it comes in a wide range of colors these new series provides the vintage and cottage look so much in fashion. Used all year round.

The big head flower in the series presented by Ball combine all the characteristics needed for a focal flowers in a bouquet or for great flower arrangements.

Can be grown single stem or in spray. Making this series a favorite in the growing bouquet business.



- A** Carmine Red
- B** Violet Blue
- C** Yellow
- D** Rose Pink

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Cultural Information

Aster Callistephus chinensis

Crop Time: 16 weeks.

Planting Density: 80 plants/sq-m.net (8 Plants/sq-ft.net).

Pre-planting:

-Soil: Well drained soil, very well leveled surface, no clusters, at 25 cm (10 in.) deep.

-pH: 6.0 to 7.0.

-Netting: 2 Nets.Net: 8 holes, 11 to 13 cm (4 x 5 in. or 6 x 6 in.).

Pinch

Not recommended.

Light

Start 7 days after transplant when the plants have true leaves. The flower buds growth initiation takes place under long day conditions, but the final flower development is hastened under short days. Therefore the light should be stopped when the plants are 40 to 45 cm high (15 to 17 in).

Light should be given taking into consideration that these plants have a critical 14 hour photoperiod, and an optimum of 16 hours.

Irrigation

Aster root systems is shallow. Don't over water.

Avoid overhead irrigation to keep the leaves as dry as possible as a further disease prevention.

Fertilization

High nitrogen increases susceptibility to Botrytis and Alternaria and reduces flower quality.

Decrease nitrogen and increase potassium when flower buds appear.

Lateral Branch Removal

When the apical bud is formed, remove lateral stems.

Harvest

Harvest when 60% of the flower is open.

Post harvest

Hydrate stems in bactericide solution.

Pests & Diseases

-Aphids

-Thrips sp

-Leaf miner

-Fusarium oxysporum. (It is recommended to rotate the crop)

-Botrytis sp

-Very susceptible to phyto-toxicities