

# Dianthus

Fruit Punch<sup>®</sup>, 'Paint the Town'



## ZONE HARDINESS 4 – 9

### NUTRITION

**pH:** 6.0 – 6.5

**EC:** (2:1 extraction method) 0.6 – 1.2

Moderate fertilization is adequate.

### TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

**Forcing/Growing on:** 60 F Night – 65 F Day

**Holding:** 50 F Night – 55 F Day

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to an open environment with good air movement.

### WATERING

Keep the soil evenly moist during all stages of growing.

*Dianthus* requires average to moderate amounts of irrigation, as they do not tolerate consistently wet or overly dry growing conditions.

### TIMING

**Supernova<sup>®</sup> 28 Liner to Trade Gallon/True Gallon:** 7 – 9 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Week 18. If purchased in the spring, our liners have been properly vernalized for proper flowering.

**50 Liner to Quart:** 7 – 8 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Week 18. If purchased in the spring, our liners have been properly vernalized for proper flowering. Liners purchased in late spring can also produce a nice summer crop. Planting a Standard 50 liner into a gallon and bulking in the fall is also a great way to finish a high quality spring crop.

### VERNALIZATION

Vernalization is required for the most prolific and uniform flowering.

### PLANTING

*Dianthus* perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium. Avoid planting *Dianthus* too deeply, or crop variability and/or losses from crown rots are likely to occur.

When growing perennials, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark based media as opposed to annual growing mixes that traditionally tend to be heavier in peat. Bark adds weight and stability to the growing mix and tends not to compress and shrink over time, thus adding the longevity that can be needed on long-term crops such as perennials.

### LIGHT/LIGHTING

*Dianthus* are facultative (beneficial) long day plants and flower induction occurs more rapidly under long days. Additionally, they also enjoy high light conditions.

### TRIMMING/PINCHING

Generally, *Dianthus* are naturally compact and don't require trimming. Light trimming and shaping of spent flowers can be done to reflush color for summer sales.

### GROWTH REGULATORS

The Fruit Punch<sup>®</sup> series of *Dianthus*, with the exception of 'Coconut Punch,' retain a compact habit throughout production and do not require plant growth regulators. Effective growth regulators include the tank mixes of B-Nine<sup>®</sup> (daminozide) at 2,000ppm + Cycocel<sup>®</sup> (chlormequat) 1,000ppm, or B-Nine at 2,000ppm + Sumagic<sup>®</sup> (uniconazole) at 3ppm.

### PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

A good routine scouting program is recommended to ensure that Aphids, Cabbage Loopers, Caterpillars, Fungus Gnats, Spider Mites, Thrips and other greenhouse pests do not cause crop loss. Thrips can sometimes be a problem when *Dianthus* comes into full bloom. Scout for foliar diseases to prevent Botrytis, Crown and Root Rots. Also, watch for INSV, Leaf Spots and Rust.

### OTHER TIPS

When growing larger containers, it is best to bulk them in the fall the year before they are to be sold.

Leaf tip burn commonly occurs due to water stress and/or high EC levels.



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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.