

# ***Helianthus annuus***

## **Solara**

Sunflower

### ***Culture guide***

**Uses:**

Plants for bedding, cut flower production

**Exposure:**

Sun

**Garden height:**

59" / 150 cm

**Crop time:**

10-12 weeks

**Sow time:**

Indoor forcing: March-August, sowing in intervals;

Outdoor forcing: April-Mid July

**Sowing method:**

1-2 seeds per plug, sowing directly into field is recommended

**Germination:**

5 days at 65-75 °F (18-24 °C). Cover seed lightly with coarse vermiculite. Supplemental lighting during plug germination improves quality. Direct sow seed for longest stem length

**Growing On:**

Direct sow or transplant at two true leaf stage. Space seed or seedlings at 5 x 5" (12x12 cm). Begin fertilizing at 100 ppm nitrogen after transplanting. Increase fertilization to 200-250 ppm nitrogen in a well-balanced mix after three weeks.

Maintain temperatures above 68-72 °F (20-22 °C) for improved stem length and flower quality. Fertilize weekly at 200-250 ppm nitrogen. Do not allow plant to become dry as leaf scorch can occur. Late day watering can also contribute to foliage disorders.

**Media:**

Field: Before sowing treat substrate with herbicide or fight the weeds mechanically and fertilize the field. Greenhouse: Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 15-30 % clay, 1-3 kg/m<sup>2</sup> complete balanced fertilizer, 0-2 kg/m<sup>2</sup> slow release fertilizer (3-6 months), Fe-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.5-6.2.

**Temperature:**

Field: cultivation is possible from April onwards. Grow at 15-18 °C. Cultivate flowering plants not below 12 °C. Helianthus plants do not tolerate frost.

**Fertilization:**

Field: N min soil value: approximately 150 g/m<sup>2</sup>. Greenhouse: High fertilization levels are required.