

# ***Papaver nudicaule*** **Garden Gnome**

Iceland Poppy

## **Culture guide**

### **Uses:**

Perennial for border and cottage garden, attractive plants for bees, container plants, cut flower production

### **Exposure:**

Sun - Partial shade

### **Garden height:**

12" / 30 cm

### **Crop time:**

13-15 weeks

### **Sow time:**

Indoor forcing: January-July, for flowering in pots; Indoor forcing: July-August for flowering in the following year; Indoor forcing: October-July for cut flower production; Outdoor forcing: End April-June for cut flower production

### **Sowing method:**

3-5 seeds per plug, tap root formation, sowing directly into final pots or field is recommended

### **Germination:**

Germinates in 14-20 days at 60-68 °F (15-20 °C). Light is required for germination.

### **Growing On:**

Transplant plugs after 8 weeks. Grow on at 50-60 °F

(10-15 °C). Plants prefer cooler growing conditions.

Vernalization is not required for flower initiation.

### **Media:**

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 15-30 % clay, 10-15 % parts (e. g. bark, perlite, sand), 1-2 kg/m<sup>3</sup> complete balanced fertilizer, 0-2 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer (3-6 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.5-7.0. Field: loamy sandy humus soils with a good drainage.

Standard fertilization: 40-60 g/m<sup>2</sup> of a slow release fertilizer.

### **Temperature:**

Grow at 12-18 °C. Avoid temperatures above 25 °C. In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C or outdoors. Outdoors fleece cover needed. In spring the plants start to grow for 8-9 weeks at 13-15 °C and long day. If cultivated at high temperatures, the light intensity should be high for good plant quality. Cold temperatures at 5-10 °C will increase the cultivation time by 2-4 weeks. A chilling period for flower initiation is not required.

**Fertilization:**

Low-moderate fertilization levels are required.

Fertilize the crop weekly with 80-100 ppm nitrogen (at 2 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer.

Don't fertilize after mid September. In spring fertilize with 100-150 ppm nitrogen of a potassium balanced fertilizer (N: K<sub>2</sub>O-ratio: 1:1,5). Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels.

High nitrogen levels are the cause that the stems and the foliage are stretched and the plant fall apart. When the buds are visible, additional foliage fertilizations should be carried out.

Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times.