

Scabiosa japonica var. Alpina **Ritz Blue**

Scabiosa

Culture guide

Uses:

Pots, perennial borders and cottage garden, combination planters; attracts bees and butterflies

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

7" / 18 cm

Crop time:

14-16 weeks

Sow time:

January-March for flowering in pots from June onwards; June-August for flowering in pots the following year

Sowing method:

1-2 seeds per plug

Germination:

Stage 1 (10-12 days)

Growing On:

Transplant plugs after 5-6 weeks. Maintain temperatures of 55-65 °F (13-18 °C). Place plants under LD conditions to promote flowering. Fertilize at 150-200 ppm nitrate nitrogen on a weekly basis. Maintain pH levels of 5.5-6.0 and EC levels of 1.0.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 15-30 % clay, 0-20 % parts (e.g. bark, perlite, sand), 1,5-3 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 0-2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-9 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH 5.8-6.5.

Temperature:

Grow at 12-15 °C or outdoors. In winter indoors frost-free at 3-5 °C or outdoors.

Fertilization:

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 130-150 ppm

nitrogen (at 2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer.

Don't

fertilize after mid September. In spring fertilize

130-150 ppm nitrogen of a complete balanced

fertilizer. Prevent magnesium deficiency by

applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times

and

in case of iron deficiency (above pH 6.0) apply

iron-chelate

for 1-2 times.