



ADORABLE[®]

CULTURAL INSTRUCTIONS

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Adorable™ (POT CARNATIONS)

General

Like the standard and spray carnation, the pot carnation belongs to the genus *Dianthus* of the family Caryophyllaceae. Under normal growing conditions, the **Adorable™** remains sufficiently compact. Treatment with growth retardants is therefore unnecessary. Even so, we sometimes find growth retardants being sprayed in practice. The result is then a more compact plant. The pot carnation resists temperatures from minus 5° to minus 10°C. and so offers the grower and consumer a wide range of potential uses.

Adorable™

The Adorable® pot carnations have larger flowers but a slower growth compared to Sunflor® pot carnations. The plants are suitable for the Southern climate but also in greenhouses with heating and lighting if needed. Also perfect as a summer crop in mid Northern European countries.

Compost and pot sizes

Pot size: 11/13cm diameter (1 pinch).
14/16cm diameter (2 pinches)

Plants require one or more pinching depending on pot size.

An important criterion for the quality of the compost is the air/water ratio. A coarse soil, possibly mixed with 15% perlite, gives the best results. The optimum pH of the soil is between 5.5 and 6.5. Important fertilizers must be added in slow release form.

The following pattern may be adopted for unfertilized compost:

Additions per m³ (85% soil + 15% perlite):

- 5 kg. Dolokal
- 1,25 kg. P.G. mix
- 200 gr. Triple superphosphate
- 150 gr. Sulfate of Magnesium
- 10 gr. Libro-mix

It is certainly worthwhile consulting your compost supplier regarding the above.

Feeding and watering

Fertilizer is added during growth in the form of a soluble composite which includes magnesium (e.g. 15-3-15-5). Initial fertilization with nitrate of lime and 10-52-10 is recommended for a smooth start. Have soil samples taken regularly to check the feeding conditions! Limit maximum feed concentration to 2.0 E.C.

The pot carnation needs normal water. However, if the crop gets too much water in spring, pot carnations will grow too tall. If water is added, make sure that the crop dries as quickly as possible. Watering should preferably take place in the morning. Overhead watering during cultivation is no problem provided clean water is being used. Nevertheless be careful with open flowers and see to it that the foliage dries quickly.

Grow on the dry side during the winter.

Further cultural instructions

The use of a watering mat or soil sheet helps to distribute the water better and restricts rooting through.

Plants need pinching as soon as the main bud appears (after approx. 4-6 weeks). This is necessary to ensure good branching and growth.

Spacing out.

At the start of the season the pots can be placed next to each other. The space is widened only once, when the plants "touch". The plant density then varies from about 40 to 45 plants per net m² (12 cm pot). The growing temperature has a particular influence on growing speed. The minimum night temperature in winter is 10°-14°C. The day temperature in spring should be increased between 14°C -16°C. depending on the intensity of the light.

Adding CO₂ improves quality. The average harvesting date will then also be moved slightly forward. The optimum CO₂ content is approx. 700 - 1,000 ppm.

Growth retarding

Dependent on the growing conditions (e.g.:watering) experience has shown that it may be necessary to use a growth retardant now and then at the end of the culture, especially if the difference between day and night temperature is high. Wetter growing conditions aiming at heavier plants also need a growth retardant. Most applied and most effective is Bonsi. Start with 0,2-0,3% and increase the dose dependent on the results.

Crop duration

The duration of growth depends on the intensity of the light (season) and the cropping measures applied. The schedule below refers to the range of varieties offered by HilverdaKooij B.V. The duration of the crop depends on the prevailing temperatures and consequently may go on for a longer or shorter period of time.

Time required for potting		Flowering period							
		12	16	20	24	32	36	40	50
Variety	Colour	Plantweek							
Annette	Pink								
Mell	Orange	34	46	1	6	16	20	22	30
Jade	Green								
Tess	Purple								
Tiara	Red								
Moonstone	White								

Control

Animal parasites:

- Aphids
- Thrips
- Red Spider Mites

Fungus parasites:

- Alternaria
- Botryhis
- Phytophthora
- Fusarium

For control, consult the Guide to Plant Disease

Adorable™ labels

We have developed a special **Adorable™** label. This label contains as much information as possible, such as a colour picture of the variety, showing its form and way of flowering as well as some growing instructions for the customer.

We hope that these brief cultural instructions will make some contribution to the success of the cultivation of your **Adorable™**. You are always welcome to contact us for further information.

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