

Corona™ Cherry Magic & Valentine Dianthus

■ All-America Selections Winner & Fleuroselect Quality Mark Winner **Corona Cherry Magic** dianthus has the largest flowers on the market – 2.5 to 3 in. (6 to 8 cm) across. The eye-catching blooms show a unique mixture of solid cherry, lavender with cherry centers and “tie-dyed” lavender and cherry pattern. These compact and extra-early blooming plants are ideal for pack and small pot production. Hardy to USDA Zone 5 (-30°C).

■ **Valentine** dianthus features a unique red flower with a white picotee border that can be finished as a terrific Valentine’s Day or Christmas novelty pack or small pot item.

■ Both **Corona Cherry Magic** and **Valentine** dianthus grow 8 to 10 in. (20 to 25 cm) tall, making these sun-lovers great bedding plants.

■ **Corona Cherry Magic** is available as seed, easy-to-sow pelleted seed and plugs.

■ **Valentine** is available as seed and plugs.

■ Call your local distributor or PanAmerican Seed at 800 231-4868 today.

D. chinensis

Approximate seed count: 46,000 to 57,000 S./oz. (1,600 to 2,000 S./g)

Plug Production

Plug Tray Size

Best produced in 406-cell plug trays.

Sowing

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless medium with good aeration and water-holding capacity. Cover seed with vermiculite at sowing. Water well, but allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings. It takes about 3 days to germinate.

Temperature

Germination: 64 to 68°F (18 to 20°C)

Cotyledon emergence: 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C) days; 60°F (15°C) nights

True leaf expansion: 60°F (15°C) days; 55°F (13°C) nights

Light

No supplemental lighting is required.

Fertilization

Stage 3: Alternate 20-10-20 and 14-0-14 at 50 ppm each week. Maintain EC at 0.75 to 1.0 mmhos/cm, and pH at 5.8 to 6.2.

Stage 4: Same as Stage 3, but increase to 100 ppm.

Growth Regulators

PGRs are not generally needed, although **Corona Cherry Magic** and **Valentine** dianthus are responsive to Bonzi and B-Nine. An application of Bonzi spray at 6 ppm in early Stage 3 will tone the plugs.

Growing On to Finish

Container Size

Corona Cherry Magic and **Valentine** dianthus are suitable for production in any pack configuration up to a 4-in. (10-cm) pot. Can be grown pot tight.

Temperature

Provide 60 to 72°F (15 to 22°C) days and 50 to 60°F (11 to 15°C) nights.

Fertilization

After plants are established, apply a calcium-based fertilizer or 15-5-15 at 150 ppm, 1 to 2 times per week.

Growth Regulators

Corona Cherry Magic and **Valentine** dianthus are very responsive to growth regulators, like other dianthus. For example, an application of Bonzi spray at 20 ppm can be applied 2 weeks after transplanting and another application of Bonzi spray at 20 ppm may be required 10 to 14 days later. A tank mix of B-Nine at 5,000 ppm and Cycocel at 1,000 ppm spray can also be substituted for the Bonzi spray above for a gentler effect.

Crop Scheduling

Corona Cherry Magic

Sow to flower: 10 to 12 weeks

Valentine

Sow to flower – Spring: 13 to 14 weeks

Sow to flower from August sowing: 11 to 12 weeks

Producing Valentine for Valentine’s Day finishing, based on California production:

Sow: Week 44 (approximately October 28)

Finished container size: 4-in. (10-cm) pot or packs

First flower: Week 6 (approximately February 3)

For outdoor production, add 3 to 4 weeks to crop time. Supplemental lighting may be required in lower light zones.

Cultural Tip

Use a powdery mildew preventative program. Pyrrole and Piperalin can cause phytotoxicity.

PanAmerican Seed™

PanAmSeed.com

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