



### **Lisianthus Growing Tips:**

Lisianthus is an incredibly popular, beautiful high end cut flower. It continues to grow in popularity due to the wonderful color options, rose like appearance and its exceptional vase life.

Lisianthus has a very slow growing process. Ideally in Zone 3 it is recommended that the seeds be started in January for summer blooms. Germination takes between 10 - 15 days, with ideal temperatures around 20 - 22 degrees celsius. Your growing media should be moist but not saturated. It is important to not let your seed pellet dry out during the germination process. Moisture is required to dissolve the pelleted coating on the seed. Keep your trays covered with clear lids, or saran to keep moisture inside and light coming through. Lisianthus requires light for germination but a thin layer of vermiculite is okay over the seed.

Once germination has occurred, remove the domes/saran to ensure the seedlings have good airflow around them. Lisianthus can be susceptible to mold and damping off if there is too much moisture around them. Reduce your temperature once germination has occurred to 15 - 20 degrees celsius. Lisianthus seedlings do not like to be grown in hot conditions.

Lisianthus seedlings grow painfully slow (hence the reason why they need to be started so early in the year) and they will seem to just sit at a very tiny size for a long time. Continue to monitor soil moisture levels (trying to keep them on the lower end of the moisture levels) and continue growing them on with an ideal soil temperature of 16 - 21 degrees celsius during the day and night time temperatures on the cooler end of the range if possible.

Lisianthus seedlings are ready for transplanting or "bumping up" when they have 4 true leaves (generally this can take as long as 70 days from seeding!). And they will still be very tiny! After bumping up they prefer slightly warmer temps around 24 degrees with night temps lower around 18 degrees celsius. Once plants are more mature and ready to be planted out they can handle more variable temperature fluctuations. Both warm and cold.

Happy Seeding!