**Substrate for seedlings**

Use an airy, well-draining, moist, substrate when sowing gerbera seeds in the plugs, pH between 5.5 - 5.8, EC around 0.7 - 1.0. Adding 15% Perlite is recommended.

**Substrate for transplanting**

Use a well-draining substrate pH between 5.5 - 5.8, EC around 1.0 - 1.2. Adding 20% Perlite is recommended.

**Irrigation**

Start with overhead irrigation for strong root development. When the flower buds appear, ebb/flower or drip tubes are preferred.

Irrigation timing: in the morning. The crops should be dry when the light falls, to avoid fungal/root problems.

Watering: during the germination phase (4 to 6 days) keep the soil moist. After germination Gerberas prefer a moderate to dry soil condition.

**Pots**

Sow Sundayz® in paper plugs (tray size: 144 to 128 cells) with a coarse substrate for successful germination and rooting. Transplant seedlings 6 weeks after sowing in 6 - 15 cm / 2.5 - 6 inch pots. Transplant the plant in the center of the pot, with the top of the plug leveling the surface of substrate. Use pots with at least 4 drainage holes and a lip. After transplanting place the pots pot-tight for an optimal micro climate.

**General remarks**

- Irrigation management is key. Overwatering is a common cause of low germination and high crop losses.
- There is no need for Plant Growth Regulators.
- Common challenges: leaf miner, broad mites/cyclamen mites, aphids and pythium.
- For custom growing recommendations based on your specific environment please contact HilverdaFlorist.
To prevent stretching of the leaves, we advise spacing of the pots approx. 3 weeks after transplanting or when the leaves touch.

**Optimal climate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Humidity</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Energy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plug 1-6</td>
<td>24 &gt; 19°C</td>
<td>99 &gt; 75%</td>
<td>200 &gt; 450 Watt/m²</td>
<td>20,000 &gt; 45,000 lux / 1,800 &gt; 4,100 f.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start 1-4</td>
<td>19 - 20°C</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>350 Watt/m²</td>
<td>35,000 lux / 3,200 f.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetative 5-9</td>
<td>17 - 19°C</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>450 Watt/m²</td>
<td>45,000 lux / 4,100 f.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowering 10-12</td>
<td>12 - 17°C</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>450 - 550 Watt/m²</td>
<td>45,000 - 54,000 lux / 4,100 - 5,000 f.c.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Finishing**

Timetable after transplanting, depending on environmental conditions and pot size:

- **Maxi**
  - 12 - 15 cm / 4,5 - 6"
  - in summer: 8 - 9 weeks
  - in winter: 9 - 11 weeks

- **Midi**
  - 10 - 13 cm / 4 - 5"
  - in summer: 8 - 9 weeks
  - in winter: 9 - 11 weeks

- **Mini**
  - 9 - 12 cm / 3,5 - 4,5"
  - in summer: 7 - 8 weeks
  - in winter: 8 - 10 weeks

- **Micro**
  - 6 - 10 cm / 2,5 - 4"
  - in summer: 7 - 8 weeks
  - in winter: 8 - 10 weeks

**Recommended fertilizer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>NH₄</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>Ca</th>
<th>Mg</th>
<th>NO₃</th>
<th>CI</th>
<th>SO₄</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Fe</th>
<th>Mn</th>
<th>Zn</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Cu</th>
<th>Mo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ppm 1,8 →</td>
<td>2,5</td>
<td>5,7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2,24</td>
<td>0,27</td>
<td>0,33</td>
<td>0,38</td>
<td>0,06</td>
<td>0,10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or use a basic NPK fertilizer, such as: 18 - 9 - 18 or 17 - 5 - 17 with added micro elements.

**Spacing**

The guidelines in this manual are based on North European climate conditions and can be used as a starting point. Crop times may vary depending on the climate, location, time of the year and greenhouse environmental conditions.