



SUNFLOWER BIG SMILE

(*Helianthus annuus*)

COLOR: Golden yellow petals, dark center <see highlight catalog>

GARDEN SIZE: Annual, height = 10-15"

NOVELTY CHARACTERISTIC: early blooming; dwarf plants; nearly day length neutral (can be produced for pots year round)

MARKET USE: bedding, summer sales, pot sales, combination planters

CULTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONTAINER SIZE:

SOWING: well suited to sow directly to final container, but large plug sizes (200 cell tray minimum) can be used

FINISH CONTAINER: 4-1/2" to 6" or Gallon, or multiples in larger containers

PLUG STAGE:

GERMINATION emergence 5-10 days / 68-72 °F / cover seed

EC (POUR THRU METHOD): emergence to cotyledon expansion= 0.75 mS/cm
cotyledon expansion to true leaf growth= 0.75-1.0 mS/cm
plug / young plant finish EC= 1.0-1.75 mS/cm

PLUG FINISH TIME: If started in plugs, be sure to transplant out before plants become stressed or excessively stretched – generally plants are ready for transplanting in about 21-25 days

FINISHING:

TRANSPLANT: 21 to 25 days

DAYS TO FLOWER: 50-60 days

TEMPERATURE: 75-85 °F day / 65-70 °F night

EC: 1.75-3.0 mS/cm (pour thru method)

pH: 6.0-6.5

COMMON DISEASE/PESTS: pythium root rot is especially a problem during cool moist weather

NOTES:

- A-Rest, B-Nine, Bonzi & Sumagic are all effective on this variety.
- Avoid over watering sunflower. Allow plants to dry moderately then water thoroughly.
- Keep plants fed enough to maintain green cotyledons up to flowering. Watch for iron deficiency when pH exceeds 6.8.
- Nutritional and/or water stress early in the culture of *Helianthus* (especially in plug trays) can cause premature budding and lower finish quality.