



Gerbera Daisy

Gerbera jamesonii

Big, clean, saturated colour on a plant that wants one thing above all: light. Keep it bright, keep it cool, and never pour water into its middle.

Deadheading

Pull spent stems out at the base, don't cut them

BRIGHT LIGHT

COOL ROOM

DAY TO DAY

Light	The brightest spot you have. Direct morning sun is ideal, with shade from harsh afternoon sun. In dim light it stops making flowers and the leaves stretch.
Water	Water when the top of the soil feels dry, onto the soil surface only — never into the crown at the centre, which rots. Tip out the saucer after 15 minutes. Use room-temperature water; below 14°C/58°F the leaves cup and turn brittle.
Food	It arrives well fed, so give it nothing for the first month. After that, a balanced liquid houseplant food every two weeks.
Temperature	18–21°C / 65–70°F by day, 10–13°C / 50–55°F at night. Stops blooming above 29°C / 85°F.
Humidity	Average household humidity, and it prefers dry leaves and moving air to a humid still corner. Do not mist — wet foliage invites powdery mildew and grey mould.

WHEN THE FLOWERS FINISH

Snap spent flower stems off right at the base rather than leaving stubs. Indoors it is very hard to reflower, so most people enjoy it for its several weeks and compost it. With a garden and nights reliably above 10–13°C / 50–55°F it is worth planting out for the summer; it will not survive a Canadian winter.

IF SOMETHING LOOKS WRONG

Sudden collapse, mushy brown centre	Crown rot — water poured into the middle of the plant, or the crown buried below soil level.
White powdery patches or grey fuzz	Powdery mildew or Botrytis from wet leaves, crowded foliage and stagnant air.
Pale leaves with green veins	Iron is being locked up by hard water. Switch to filtered or cooled boiled water for a few weeks, or use a houseplant food that includes iron.
Fine webbing, dull speckled leaves	Spider mites, common in hot dry rooms.

GROWER REFERENCE

Production and finishing figures. If you are keeping this plant on a windowsill, everything you need is on page one — this page is for the trade.

Media pH	5.3–5.8 germination and plug, 5.5–6.0 transplant to finish (5.6–6.2 acceptable). Above 6.0 iron locks up and interveinal chlorosis appears.
Media EC	SME 0.7–1.0 at germination, 1.0–1.5 plug bulking, 1.5–2.0 at finish (target 1.75–2.5).
Substrate	Well-drained disease-free soilless substrate. Peat–perlite with high aeration for plugs, free-draining peat mix to finish. Intolerant of saturated media.
Fertilizer	Constant liquid feed. Plugs 50–125 ppm N alternating 13-2-13 / 17-5-17. Finish 15-5-15 or 17-5-17 at 150–200 ppm N, 20-10-20 under high light. Hold 8–12 ppm P, 1.5 ppm Fe, 0.5 ppm B. MgSO ₄ 1 lb + FeEDDHA 1 oz per 100 gal every 2–3 weeks. Keep ammoniacal N low.
Light	Stage 2: 2,000–2,500 f.c., DLI 6–8. Plug bulking 3,500–5,000 f.c., DLI 12–18. Finish 4,000–6,000 f.c. under an 11–13 h photoperiod. Shade above ~7,000 f.c.
Temperature	Germination 23–24°C / 74–76°F. Plug bulking 20–21°C / 68–70°F. Finish 21–22°C / 70–72°F two weeks, then 18–20°C / 65–68°F. Flowering delayed below 17°C / 63°F ADT.
Relative humidity	100% to radicle emergence, 85–90% stage 2, 40–50% from plug bulking to finish.
Irrigation	Fine drip or mist through plugs; sub-irrigation, drip or careful surface watering at finish. Avoid overhead on finished crops. Irrigation water above 14°C / 58°F.

DISORDERS & PESTS

Crown rot from a buried or wetted crown. Iron chlorosis above pH 6.0. Foliage cupping from cold irrigation water. Leaf distortion and root burn from excess ammoniacal N. Botrytis, powdery mildew, Alternaria; Pythium, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia web blight. Broad and cyclamen mite, thrips, whitefly, aphids, spider mites, leafminers. PGR: B-Nine 1,000–2,500 ppm, 1–2 applications 9–10 days apart, stop at pea-size bud.

GROWN BY

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Three generations of family growing since 1962.

The genus honours Traugott Gerber, an 18th-century German naturalist who ran the Moscow botanical garden and never saw the plant — it was named for him after his death, from a South African species not described until decades later.

Sources

- Greenhouse Management, Cartwheel Gerbera culture
- Clemson HGIC 1165; Penn State Extension, Gerbera diseases