



Lisianthus

Eustoma grandiflorum

Rose-like blooms on a prairie wildflower that was quietly perfected in Japan. One of the few gift plants genuinely worth a second flush.

Second flush

Cut back after flowering and it usually blooms again

FULL SUN

ROOM TEMP

REBLOOMS

DAY TO DAY

Light

As much bright light as you can give it — a sunny window with direct morning sun. It is a prairie plant and will not open its remaining buds in a dim room.

Water

Water the soil thoroughly, then let the top dry slightly. Water in the morning and keep it off the leaves and flowers. Never leave it standing in water — it hates wet feet more than most gift plants.

Food

It arrives well fed, so nothing for the first few weeks. After that, a balanced liquid fertilizer at half strength every two to three weeks.

Temperature

20–25°C / 68–77°F by day and 16–18°C / 60–65°F at night. Sustained heat above 28°C / 82°F is what makes this crop misbehave.

Humidity

Average household humidity. Keep air moving and the foliage dry — stuffy air plus wet petals equals Botrytis.

WHEN THE FLOWERS FINISH

Cut the flowering stems back to just above a pair of healthy lower leaves. Unlike most gift plants this one is worth a second try — it will often push another flush about six weeks later given enough light and warmth. It is a tender short-lived perennial that will not survive a Canadian winter, but the pot can summer outside in a sunny, well-drained spot.

IF SOMETHING LOOKS WRONG

Buds sit closed and the plant stays flat

Lisianthus stalls when it is too warm and too dim. Move it to your brightest window and the cooler side of the house, and give it moving air rather than a stuffy corner.

Brown papery petal edges

Too much hot direct sun on open flowers, or drying out between waterings.

Grey fuzzy mould on flowers and stems

Botrytis from overhead watering, crowded stems and still damp air.

Floppy stems

Too little light.

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	6.2–6.5 in soilless media at finish — notably higher than standard greenhouse practice. Below 6.2 the risk of zinc and micronutrient toxicity and severe stunting rises sharply; some guidance runs 6.8–7.2 to optimise calcium uptake. Do not 'correct' this downward.
Media EC	Plug 0.4–0.8 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 0.9–2.0 (SME) / 1.1–2.6 (PourThru). Finish 0.9–1.3 (1:2) / 2.1–3.5 (SME) / 2.7–4.6 (PourThru).
Substrate	Well-drained soilless mix with excellent free air porosity. Composition is not published; drainage is the non-negotiable requirement given Fusarium, Pythium and Rhizoctonia pressure.
Fertilizer	Plug 70–100 ppm N calcium-nitrate based. Stage 2 100–150 ppm N. Active growth to 200 ppm N. Finish 150–200 ppm N at N:K 1:1.5. CRF alternative 14-14-14 or 19-6-12 at 8–10 lb/yd ³ . Stop feeding ~4 weeks before flowering. Ca and Mg supplementation routinely required.
Light	Seed needs light to germinate: 100–300 f.c. Stage 2 seedlings 2,500–3,000 f.c. Supplemental lighting shortens crop time. Avoid above 5,000 f.c. combined with warmth — it burns petals. DLI not established.
Temperature	Germination 20–21°C / 68–70°F. Finish night 16–18°C / 60–65°F, day 20–25°C / 68–77°F. Critical: hold 17–24°C / 63–75°F for the first four weeks after sowing — above 28°C / 82°F in that window triggers rosetting.
Relative humidity	Not established. Practice is high RH for the first 10 days after transplant, then dropping humidity and keeping the media surface dry.
Irrigation	Drip preferred specifically to minimise free moisture on foliage; water early so surfaces dry before night. After establishment, water less often to drive deeper rooting.

DISORDERS & PESTS

Rosetting — the crop's signature failure, stress-induced dormancy from heat in the first four weeks. Fusarium avenaceum (the reason for high-pH free-draining media), Botrytis, Pythium, Rhizoctonia. Tipburn from excess N. Ca and Mg deficiency. Micronutrient/zinc toxicity below pH 6.2. Potting: 2 plugs per 12 cm pot, 3 per 15 cm. PGR: B-Nine 3,200–4,000 ppm spray, or Bonzi/A-Rest drench at 10 ppm.

GROWN BY

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Three generations of family growing since 1962.

Lisianthus is a North American prairie wildflower from Nebraska to Texas, but almost every variety sold today came out of Japanese breeding that began when seed crossed the Pacific in the early 1900s and produced the first commercial cultivars in 1933.

Sources

- Sakata, Lisianthus cut flower & pot plant culture
- NC State Extension — Eustoma grandiflorum