



Chili



Fizzy



Frosty



Radiance

Dianthus Early Bird™ Series



Sherbet

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Very early flowering and long blooming, Early Bird™ *Dianthus* are compact, forming dense cushions of blue green foliage. Lovely, double blossoms sparkle in beds, pots or combination plantings. Pick a bouquet for a diminutive delight. *Introduced by PlantHaven; Whetman® series.*

Chili—dark coral, with a spicy fragrance

Fizzy—lavender with a maroon eye

Frosty—pure white, scented

Radiance—crimson

Sherbet—cherry pink

USES

Because these *Dianthus* do not require vernalization, they make a perfect greenhouse cool crop for early color sales. Plants may be sold as gift plants for later planting in the garden and rockery, or for spring and early summer bedding, pot crops and mixed container components.

GROWER NOTES

The following information is based on our own experience with this crop in the Pacific Northwest. Growth will vary depending on location, climate, growing medium and cultural practices. As always, where chemical use is involved, read the labels, follow the instructions and practice careful trialing methods.

- Best grown in bright light and well-drained soil. Supplemental lighting may shorten grow time by 1–2 weeks or may help in very low light conditions.
- To produce an indoor cool crop, transplant in the fall in a 50–55° F. greenhouse and allow the plants to bulk up before attempting to force bloom. First flowers may need to be removed to produce full pots. Planting before November 1st should produce blooming 4" for mid to late February sales.
- Allow to dry between waterings, and avoid watering late in the day or whenever conditions will keep foliage wet for long periods.
- A fungicide drench to prevent *Pythium*, *Alternaria* and *Fusarium* is recommended at transplant. Good air circulation and careful watering are the best disease prevention, but biweekly sprays may be necessary when conditions are optimum for disease development.
- Monitor for aphids, mites and thrips routinely. Thrips can cause damage to blooms and are difficult to control once established on blooming plants.

PLANT DATA

USDA Zone: 6(-10°)

Bloom time: Apr–Jul

Chili

Height: 4"/7"

Spread: 8"

Fizzy

Height: 8"/12"

Spread: 10"

Frosty

Height: 5"/8"

Spread: 10"

Radiance

Height: 5"/8"

Spread: 10"

Sherbet

Height: 4"/7"

Spread: 8"

APPROXIMATE FINISH TIMES

- 4" from 128-cell liner: 8–10 weeks
- 4" from 128-cell liner: 14–16 weeks from fall transplant

PATENT INFORMATION

Asexual propagation prohibited

D. Chili ('WP10 SAB06'): COPF, USPPP

D. Fizzy ('WP08 VER03'): USPP #21394

D. Frosty ('WP10 VEN06'): COPF, USPPP

D. Radiance ('WP09 MAR05'): COPF, USPPP

D. Sherbet ('WP08 NIK03'): USPP #21418