



Excellent in Gallon Cans

EUCOMIS/PINEAPPLE FLOWER CULTURAL INSTRUCTIONS



Excellent Summer/Fall
Fragrant Pot

Potted Eucomis make a unique, attractive 6" or 8" pot item, or gallon can, for summer through fall sales.

Both the pink and the white varieties are fragrant, though the white, *Eucomis autumnalis*, is more fragrant and more floriferous than the pink, *Eucomis comosa*. Eucomis are natives of South Africa and prefer a Mediterranean type climate, though can be produced under cover with modified culture.

The creamy white, *Eucomis autumnalis*, is the more compact, determinant and fragrant of the two available species. As such, it is best suited to pot culture. Eucomis can be planted late spring through summer. White Eucomis make an attractive and fragrant pot plant during traditionally "slow" summer sale and can offer unique novelty to fall sales. The larger-flowered pink, *E. comosa*, throws fewer, but taller and more dramatic flowers that are suitable for cutting. However, the lesser determinant of the pink spreads the bloom period and sometimes 5-10% of a given planting lacks bloom. Pink Eucomis are, therefore, best used in gallon cans where a picture stake, attractive foliage and perennial nature can help carry the sale.

Eucomis bulbs are available for forcing from late February through end of July. Sizes available are:

1 3/4" - 2" (14/16cm) ~ 2" - 2 1/4" (16/18cm) ~ 2 1/4" UP (18cm+)

POTTING: Use well draining media. Use 1 bulb per pot. Cover bulbs with 2" of media.

FERTILIZER: Eucomis are *light to moderate* feeders. Either a balanced pre-plant slow-release or constant feed program works well. Keep in mind, high fertility tends to produce soft, loose and generally weaker plants, especially when grown under cover.

LIGHT: Full sun or partial shade is best. Outdoor production in summer or fall is recommended. Superior plant form and color will be achieved with high light and cooler evenings.

WATER regularly and do not allow pots to dry out.

PESTS and DISEASES: Although pests and diseases are few, mealy bugs can occasionally harbor deep in the bulb scales. Therefore, we advise that growers consider taking preventative steps to suppress and control mealybug outbreaks in their Eucomis crop. Very successful control can be achieved with the systemic material Marathon® 1 G (at 1 level tsp/pot). Because Eucomis can be an attractive host to aphids, a preventative control program using Marathon® 1 G is an excellent systemic option for both aphid and mealybug.

TEMPERATURES: between 60°F and 85°F daytime and 50-65°F nights are best.

FLOWERING: White Eucomis take roughly 100-110 days from planting and pink require 120-130 days. The number of blooms likely per bulb size and variety are:

<u>SIZE</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>PINK</u>
1 3/4" - 2"	1.5 - 3	1
2" - 2 1/4"	2.5 - 4	1.5 - 2
2 1/4" up	3.0 - 5	1.75 - 3

GROWING REGULATION: Recent studies, as well as market feedback, have indicated that although proper cultural techniques can yield a compact and well-proportioned pot of Eucomis, some growth regulation may be desirable for optimal *interior* postharvest performance. Crops intended for use as premium potted plants for interior display would greatly benefit from a Bonzi drench. (*Note: Eucomis grown outdoors and cool as mentioned above, and aimed at the garden center market will likely not require PGR's*)

It has been discovered that a late and relatively high dose of Bonzi will dramatically reduce the postharvest stretch that occurs when this crop is displayed indoors (generally dark and warm). These studies have shown that when Bonzi is not used, the flowers of this crop tend to stretch dramatically and often topple over within 3-5 days of interior display. This type of reaction to low natural light can practically be eliminated by a single application of Bonzi: using drench rates from 7.5-30 ppm, with 15-30 ppm being more effective. The method and timing are as follows: drench 6.0 oz/6.0" pot. Successful results were achieved by drenching when 1/3 of the crop is just beginning to show the pineapple-like vegetative top-knot (when looking into the rosette from above), yet neither florets nor flower neck is visible. *As always, growers should examine rate and timing trials to determine the best method for their particular needs, prior to commercial scale application.*

Exciting new Eucomis hybrids are coming soon. We recommend you get familiar with these species selections now in order to move faster with the new hybrids when they become available.

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