

## Culture Advice *Ageratum houstonianum*

Blue mink

<b>Description:</b>	Beautiful, rich-flowering, compact bed plant (especially for cemeteries), planting density 30 to 35 plants/m <sup>2</sup> . Plant out in the second half of May at the earliest since it is sensitive to cold. Is also suitable for mixed balcony and tub planting but, wherever possible, in combination with less competitive partner plants. Flowers from May to August.
<b>Potting:</b>	11 to 12 cm pot, calendar weeks 8 to 12.
<b>Substrate:</b>	Recommended is a loose, well-drained and low-in-salt substrate (with perlite, spelt or styromull portion). pH approx. 5.5
<b>Fertilization:</b>	Moderate; apply a balanced multi-nutrient fertilizer (0.15 to 0.25 %) once a week; do not use fertilizers containing too much nitrogen.
<b>Temperature:</b>	14 to 16 °C for up to four weeks after potting, then finish cultivation at 10 to 14 °C.
<b>Light:</b>	Cultivate in full light, no shadow. Earlier flowering by extra lighting to reach 14 h daylight.
<b>Flowering:</b>	Starts end of April depending on light conditions (if no extra light is used).
<b>Growth regulators:</b>	Apply max. 2 x Cycocel 720, 0.15 to 0.2 %
<b>Pinching:</b>	Pinching is not absolutely necessary, but if branching is unsatisfactory a lopping or shaping here and there is recommended in order to get a better plant build-up.
<b>Diseases and pest:</b>	Especially botrytis, pythium, fungus gnats, white fly, plant lice, spider mite, thrips; preventive measures are recommended.

Water balance is of importance; the plants must not stand too wet, danger of botrytis, damage to roots and irregular plant build-up are the consequences.