

Gomphocarpus Hairy Balls™

(Balloon Cottonbush)

Gomphocarpus physocarpus



FLOWER/GARDEN SIZE: Height: 47 inches, tender perennial (USDA Zone 6b)
NOVELTY CHARACTERISTICS: Light green, round, inflated fruit with soft spines on long arching stems.
MARKET USE: Cut flower, butterfly garden

CULTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONTAINER SIZE:

SOWING: 288 plug tray or direct sow in field/greenhouse

FINISH CONTAINER: Gallon or field

PLUG STAGE:

GERMINATION: Emergence 7-10 days / 68-86°F; needs light to germinate

PLUG FINISH TIME: 4 - 6 weeks from sow

FINISHING:

DAYS TO FLOWER FROM SOW: Sow February/March, transplant in April, harvest July/August/ 120 to 130 days – plants

SOW: require 12 hour daylength to flower

TEMPERATURE: 58- 60°F day

pH: 5.6—6.0

GARDEN: Prefers full sun and well drained conditions

NOTES:

- Plants should be transplanted in an early stage as they form a taproot which should not be disturbed
- Harvest when pods are green and do not let them develop a red blotch as then they are too ripe and can burst open
- Plant closer together if you grow them un-pinched; plant them 20-25 inches (50 to 60 cm) apart if you pinch the top at the fifth or sixth leaf. This encourages the growth of side shoots.