



Lisianthus

Available in Plugs & Seed unless otherwise listed

Cut Flower varieties 2009

www.highsun.com.au

Transplant & Flowering Guide



Lisianthus (*Eustoma grandiflorum*) is a native of the south eastern U.S. and northern Mexico. Lisianthus flowering is triggered by three factors:

Temperature (warmer temperatures accelerate flowering). Temperature control is the most important factor in Lisianthus production.

1. Water and fertilizer (too much water and fertilizer delays flowering)
2. Daylength (long days accelerate flowering)

For the above reasons Breeders have cultivated various Groups of Lisianthus to help growers to maintain sufficient stem length and flower quality for various climates and growing seasons. The native Lisianthus is a flower that, under natural conditions, germinates with autumn or winter rains and blooms in summer. In general, **Group 2** varieties fit this flowering time and readily produce flowers with long thick stems under these conditions. In winter and early spring, **Group 0** varieties are more tolerant of shorter days and low light and are more inclined to flower with sufficient stem length under these conditions. Don't go too early with Group 0 varieties or

premature flowering will result. The manipulation of the growing environment can assist in getting the most out of these groups. It is best to trial each cultivar to see which one works best for your growing environment and climate. The flowering months listed below are suggestions only and based on overseas and local experience. They may overlap depending upon environmental factors. **Group 1** varieties are quite adaptable and can be used over a wide planting and flowering window. It is still best to avoid Group 1 when flowering during January to March where Group 2 or even Group 3 varieties will give better stem caliper and length. A word of caution, some colours within a variety are not consistent with the grouping of the variety. For instance, Magic ranges from White (Group 0) to Blue (Group 2), a difference of 6 weeks to flower from transplant during cooler months and 2-3 weeks during the warmer months.

2009 Cut Flower Lisianthus Transplant Guide					Ideal transplant window for colours in the Gp											
Series	Comments	Colours	Growing Season	Group	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Advantage	Not trialed sufficiently yet for good appraisal	Cherry Sorbet, Green, Purple & Yellow	All year	Gp 2	T							T	T	T	T	T
Arena	Fits late flowering window good quality.	Rose White		Gp 3	T	T									T	T
Borealis	All colours exhibited stems of small caliper and shorter than most other varieties. This is a big problem for growers using them outside the recommended transplant time. Strongly recommend that other Gp 1 varieties are used when not transplanting during May, June & July. Note that only half the colours are a true Gp 0!	Apricot, Blue	Early Winter, Early Spring production	Gp 0				T	T	T	T					
Bouquet	Two complementary colours suited to the summer flowering period. Exhibits similar flowering characteristics to Valentine series, but flowering 1-2 weeks later.	Pink Flash, Rose Pink	Summer Flowering	Gp 3	T	T	T						T	T	T	T
Bridal	The first colour in a specially selected range with a unique bud form for Lisianthus. The series will be especially useful for wedding arrangements and bouquets. The series is top flowering with buds of medium size. The upper stems are strong and resist floppiness. Group 1 timing so is suited to most times of the year. Bridal Yellow perfectly shaped buds show a hint of lime when tight. As the outer petals unfurl the buds take on the appearance of a rose.	Yellow	All year	Gp 1	T	T	E						T	T	T	T

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Caesar	A very good deep violet single with dark buds. Should be recommended wherever Flamenco Purple is required. It has strong upper stems with no flopping over, a trait growers are looking for especially for bouquet work. This variety comes in two forms, winter and summer for the two main planting seasons. Good bud count.	Violet Winter	All year	Gp 0			E	T	T	T	T	T				
		Violet Summer	All year	Gp 1	T	T	E						T	T	T	T
Cessna	Cessna is ideally suited for harvest between February and April. A group 3 variety, flowering 2 weeks after Mariachi. It is in keeping with the selection philosophy of Gem and Helix. Top Flowering. Impressive bud counts means less stems per bunch. Medium – large flower size with high petal counts. Neat flower form that presents well. Strong, stiff upper stems for reduced flower droop.	Blue, Pink	All year	Gp 3	T	T							T	T	T	T
Echo	Showing it's age mainly in the flower shape and bud counts. The flower can tend to be untidy and not uniform across all plants. The flower form is acceptable. Two colours are quite late when grown over the winter. Gem is possibly a better choice where the colours are available.	Blue, Blue Pic, Champagne, Lavender Pink, Pink Pic, White & Yellow	Spring - Autumn	Gp 1	T	T	E	T	T		E	T	T	T	T	T
		Lavender & Yellow	During winter took longer to flower than a Gp 1 variety.	Gp 2 during winter only	T	T	E	T				T	T	T	T	T
Flamenco	Single flowers.	Mix and Purple	All year	Gp 2	T	T						T	T	T	T	T
Gem	Composite series derived from Highsun trialing. Strict criteria of above average flower form and shape, top flowering and above average petal counts. The colour must exhibit a high degree of uniformity of all the above traits. You will see a difference of stem length between the colours with Misty Blue being the shortest and Pink the tallest. Pink does show less than perfect stem strength when flowering during summer so should be avoided for then. It is the earliest to flower of most varieties coming out of winter.	Blue, Blue Picotee, Green, Misty Blue, White	All year	Gp 1	T	T	T	T	T		E	T	T	T	T	T
		Pink	All year	Gp 1				T	T	T	T	T	T			

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Helix	Composite series developed from Highsun trialing. Criteria is similar to that of Gem with the addition of stiff upper stems for the warmer periods where many older varieties show signs of drooping or become floppy. This series consists of later flowering varieties of Gp 2 & Gp 3 timing so should be considered especially for the summer flowering months where Mariachi is predominantly used. NOTE: Violet Picotee MUST only be transplanted from Aug - Jan for flowering during warmer months to avoid too much solid colour.	Lavender, Lime,	All year	Gp 2	T	T	E				E	T	T	T	T	T	
		Violet Picotee, White	All year	Gp 2	T	T	E					T	T	T	T	T	
		Pink, Red.	All year	Gp 3	T	T	E					E	T	T	T	T	
Magic	Had a good run when first introduced due to it being an alternative to Echo. Generally this series is characterised by the wide flowering window across the colours with White being the earliest and Blue flowering some 2-3 weeks later in the main season. Large, sometimes untidy flowers bourne from the middle of the stem to the top is a trait of the series. White, Misty Pink Imp (2008) are the standout colours of the series.	White	All year	Gp 0	T			T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	
		Blue Pic, Champagne, Deep Blue, Green, Misty Pink, Pink, Rose Pic, Rose & Yellow	All year	Gp 1	T	E	E	T	T		E	T	T	T	T	T	T
		Blue	All year	Gp 2	T	T	E				E	T	T	T	T	T	
Mariachi	Standing the test of time. Generally exhibits the modern traits required by most growers. Many colours are top flowering with good flower shape and form. Picotee colours are particularly poor. Has a little wider flowering window across all colours than you would like which means being selective when it comes to deciding colours for growing during cooler periods as they can quickly become uneconomical especially if heating the crop. Carmine is earlier than the rest but compliments the later Helix Red so is the better choice for cooler periods.	Carmine	All year	Gp 1	E			T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	E	
		Blue, Blue Pic, Lavender, Lilac Pic, Lime, Misty Blue, Misty Pink, Pink, Pink Pic, White & Yellow	All year	Gp 2	T	T						E	T	T	T	T	T
		Lavender	During winter took longer to flower than a Gp 2 variety.	Gp 3 during winter only	T	T							E	T	T	T	T
Piccolo	Flower size in between that of Flamenco and Fioretti. Single flowered. Modern traits of top flowering and increased bud count. Flowers are cup shaped. Not trailed extensively. Growers tend to prefer this variety if a single is needed.	Blue Rim, Green, Pastel Blue, Pastel Pink, Pink, Pink Rim, Rose, White & Yellow.	All year	Gp 1	T	E	E	T	T		E	T	T	T	T		

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Super Magic	In trials has shown to be of similar quality to Magics with similar traits. It's one feature of some different colours is negated now that Cherry Sorbet and Yellow have been moved to the new Advantage series. White & Lavender are the standout colours with Deep Blue and Purple giving the much needed darker blues. Deep Blue is later and nearly identical in colour so Purple would be the preferred choice.	White	All year	Gp 0	T			T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
		Deep Blue, Lavender Blue, Lavender, Peach & Purple.	All year	Gp 1	T	E	E	T	T			E	T	T	T	T
Valentine	This replaces the Rosita series which never really performed due to weak roots causing lack of uniformity and vigour. Valentine Violet was a standout variety at our 2006 trials due to it's massive bud count numbering over 40 per stem. Sought after vivid blue of very good shape and form including stiff upper stems. If you must find fault with this series it would be only the slightly smaller flowers. The bud shape resembles a rose unfurling. Ideal bouquet variety.	Rose & Violet, Yellow	All year	Gp 2	T	T					E	T	T	T	T	T

NOTES

- Colours can be transplanted beyond the "Ideal" month but expect a disproportionately longer time to flower than other colours in the series.
- "Flower Shape" refers to the arrangement of petals, whether cupped with petals not reflexing back or the desirable presentation of the petals arranged tidily with the petals folding back to form a rose like appearance.
- "Flower Form" refers to the arrangement of the flowers along the stem ie. A "top" flowering variety has most of the flowers grouped to the top of the stem and a spray form presents the flowers from half way up the stem.

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Group 0:

Victoria:

Winter and early spring flowering: June to October.

Queensland:

Early to late winter flowering with return crops during spring.

Flowers initiated after 9 - 10 nodes.

Doubles:

Borealis formerly Aurora Apricot, Blue,

- True winter-flowering double-flowered series, able to flower under lower light and lower greenhouse temperatures than most currently existing series. Poor performance in warm months.

Magic White:

- Very early, quality white.

Super Magic White:

- Fuller flower.

Singles:

Caesar Violet Winter:

- Very uniform, dark buds.

Group 1:

Victoria:

Late autumn-winter and late spring-early summer flowering.

Queensland:

Autumn through to Christmas flowering.

Flowers initiated after 12 nodes.

Doubles:

-

Bridal Yellow:

- New shaped, classy and petite bud, intense yellow.

Echo Blue, Blue Pic, Champagne, Pink, Pink Pic, White:

- The most commonly grown double-flowered Lisianthus; best in spring, may be too short in summer. Echo may have weak stems and long crop time under low light.

Gem Blue, Blue Picotee, Green, Misty Blue. White:

- General improvements over Echo, earlier and better performing during winter.

Gem Pink:

- Best flowering period is winter-late spring.

Magic Blue Pic, Champagne, Deep Blue, Green, Misty Pink, Pink, Rose Pic, Rose and Yellow:

- Autumn through spring flowering variety, wide flowering window between colours.

Mariachi Carmine:

- Early colour is this series.

Super Magic Dp Blue, lavender, lavender Blue, Peach, Purple:

- Autumn through spring flowering variety that flowers earlier than Echo, white is earliest of all colours.

Singles:

Caesar Violet Summer:

- Very uniform, dark buds (4 wks later than Caesar Violet Winter).

PiccoloSeries:

- Elegant, single form, medium size, high stem strength.

Group 2:

Victoria:

Summer flowering: January to early April.

Southern Queensland:

Summer flowering.

Northern Queensland:

Spring to autumn with best quality cut either side of summer.

Flowers initiated after 13 - 14 nodes.

Singles:

Flamenco Purple, Mix:

- Growing Season - all year.

Doubles:

Advantage Series:

- Growing Season - all year.

Echo Lavender & Yellow:

- During winter took longer to flower than Gp 1 colours

Helix Lavender, Lime, White and Pink:

- Unique colours, summer flowering.

Helix Violet Picotee:

- Unique colour, summer flowering, must be grown for summer harvest Nov to April for best picotee markings of any variety (refer to timing over the page)

Magic Blue:

- Late colour for this series.

Mariachi Blue, Blue Pic, Lavender, Lime, Lilac Pic, Misty Blue, Misty Pink, Pink, Pink Pic, White & Yellow:

- Double-flowered Lisianthus with very beautifully arranged whorls of petals, similar in timing to Flamenco for summer production.

Valentine Rose:

- 1 week later than violet.

Valentine Violet, Yellow:

- Early, very high production, intense colours.

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Group 3:

Victoria:

Summer flowering: February to March.

Southern Queensland:

Summer flowering: January to April.

Northern Queensland:

Summer flowering: December to April.

Flowers initiated after 15 nodes.

Doubles:

Arena Rose, White:

Bouquet Pink Flash, Rose Pink:

- Complementary colours best suited to the summer flowering period

Cessna Blue, Pink:

- Ideally suited for harvest between February and April.

Helix Red:

- Unique colour, summer flowering.

Sow Date:

January – March & July – December.

See Highsun Express Cut Flower catalogue for Contract Order lead times.

Transplant Date:

Summer: 12 weeks from sowing.

Winter: 16 weeks from sowing.

Flower Date:

Summer Plantings: 10-12 weeks from transplant.

Spring/Autumn Plantings: 12-15 weeks from transplant.

Winter Plantings: 22-27 weeks from transplant.

nb: winter plantings can be manipulated with heating and lighting

Group	Double Flowered		Single Flowered	
	Large	Medium, spray	Large	Medium, spray
0	Borealis Apricot, Blue Magic White Super Magic White	-	Caesar Violet Winter Ruffles Series	
1	Borealis Pink, White Echo Blue, Blue Pic, Champagne, Lavender, Pink, Pink Pic, White and Yellow Gem Series Magic Blue Pic, Champagne, Deep Blue, Green, Misty Pink, Pink, Rose Pic, Rose, Yellow Mariachi Carmine Super Magic Deep Blue, Lav Blue, Lav, Peach, Purple	Bridal Yellow	Caesar Violet Summer	Piccolo 1 Series
2	Advantage Series Echo Lavender, Yellow Helix Lavender, Lime Spring 08, Violet Pic Magic Blue Mariachi Blue, Blue Pic, Lavender, Lime, Lilac Pic, Misty Blue, Misty Pink, Pink, Pink Pic, White, Yellow Super Magic Blue	Valentine Series	Flamenco Mix and Purple,	
3	Arena Series Cessna Series Helix Red	Bouquet Series		

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