

Cultural information

INTICANCHA

TEMPLE OF THE SUN

Pot Alstroemeria

Cultural information on the cropping of Inticancha® from HilverdaKooij



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Inticancha®

After several years of successful breeding of pot alstroemeria, HilverdaKooij have started the marketing and sales of young plants of pot alstroemeria in 2006. The brand name of these pot alstroemeria is 'Inticancha®'. Inticancha® is a genetically compact and free-flowering pot alstroemeria. Growth control is *not* required.

Inticancha® is offered in the following varieties:

- Inticancha® Red
- Inticancha® White
- Inticancha® Purple
- Inticancha® White Pink Blush
- Inticancha® White Pink Heart
- Inticancha® Dark Purple

Nursery profile

Any well-equipped nursery for the production of pot plants, bedding and/or patio plants is perfectly suited for the production of Inticancha®. Some important issues are:

- It must be possible to maintain an average 24 hour temperature of 12 -16 °C;
- A well-levelled surface and a good irrigation system is required;
- Preferably the greenhouse is equipped with shading screens;
- Growing lights are not (necessarily) required in Dutch and similar climate conditions, but will reduce the cropping time.

Crop planning

Inticancha is perfectly suited for programmed cropping with weekly or fortnightly pottings. The cropping time of Inticancha Red can be estimated at 15-17 weeks from potting to flowering and sales, without growing lights. And about 13-14 weeks with the use of growing lights. Of course the cropping time will get shorter as the season progresses. Early pottings (from mid to late November) will take longer than spring pottings when the light conditions are more favourable. In principle, young plants can be supplied all year round. Under Dutch and/or comparable conditions potting can begin from mid November (wk 45/46) onwards and can be continued until wk 10, or 12, all depending on the market situation: how late in the summer can they still be sold profitably? It is expected that flowering will not start before (mid to late) March under Dutch conditions. The number of plants per m² also depends on the chosen pot size. At the start the plants are put together pot-thick on the bench or floor. Spacing will take place 6-8 weeks after potting.

Young plants

HilverdaKooij offers vegetatively propagated (in Vivo) from rhizomes (root-stocks) in a 5 cm plug. Experiences so far with rhizome propagated young plants are excellent. The plants are very strong with zero losses after potting. The plant quality is good and all plants are sure to be true to type. The young plants are already fairly mature with a strong root-system in the 5 cm plugs. Presently the 5 cm plugs are produced in a plastic tray, 28 plugs per tray.



Young plant (from rhizome) Inticancha® Red



Tray young plants Inticancha® Red

Potting compost

It is important to use a well-aerated compost; and it is advisable to have a peat and coconut fibre ratio of 60:40. A base feed of 1 kg PG Mix per cubic metre (m³) is recommended. The pH of the compost should be around 5.5 with a conductivity (EC) of 1.0. The growers in Holland who are currently growing Inticancha use BF8 mixture, produced and supplied by TrefEgo. The composition of this mix is as follows per cubic metre:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| ➤ Blackpeat-fibrous | 0,25 m ³ |
| ➤ Baltic coarse peat | 0,25 m ³ |
| ➤ Fraction 2 peat | 0,25 m ³ |
| ➤ Coconut fibre | 0,25 m ³ |
| ➤ Lime | 3,0 kg. |
| ➤ PG Mix 15-10-20 | 1,0 kg. |
| ➤ WMC | 0,25 kg. |

Pots

The choice of pots strongly depends on the desired final product and also on the type of Inticancha®. The shape, colour and quality of the (plastic) pots also depends on the market situation. Minimum pot diameter of 19 cm is recommended for the compact Inticancha®, but larger pot sizes (21-25 cm) will probably produce the finest product. Do make sure that the pots drain well and are suitable for the chosen irrigation system; ebb-flood irrigation requires a different pot than capillary matting for instance. Experience so far shows that the plant will fill the pot completely, whatever the pot size. And it seems remarkable that the cropping time is hardly effected by the pot size.

Potting

After receipt of the plants it is important to pot these as soon as possible. When the plants are planted do make sure that the actual rhizome is covered with a fairly thin layer of compost. It is noticeable that in many cases the plant is at the side of the plug. When potted, the plants should be put in the middle of the pot. Do not press the compost too much but do fill the pots to the rim. Do not plant more than one plant in the pot; one plant will fill the pot anyway and more plants put together will not develop into one individual looking product. After potting the plants are put pot-thick in the greenhouse.

Irrigation

After potting it is important to water the plants overhead in order to make sure that the compost is moistened properly. Clean water without any fertiliser must be used (the base feed provides sufficient nutrition). Hereafter watering must take place as needed. Irrigation methods can be dripping lines, capillary matting, ebb-flood irrigation. At the beginning of the crop it may be preferable to repeat the initial overhead watering, so that the top of the pot also remains moist. Towards the end of the crop the plants can be kept on the dry side in order to encourage the setting of flower buds. More water is necessary in springtime when the plants are growing very fast. Make sure that the plants are kept sufficiently moist.

Fertilising

The base feed of the substrate consists of 1 kg PG Mix 15-10-20 per m³. After the start of the crop feeding can be done with the compound soluble fertiliser of N-P-K = 14-14-28 plus trace elements. Alternatively you can make your own mix, for instance by using the following schedule per 1000 litres clean water:

- Algospeed: 7.12.35+2MGO 70 kg.
- Chelal MG 1.2 l.
- Chelal Omnical 2.8 l.
- Borax 0.17 kg.
- Magnitra 20 L.
- Primafer (iron) 8 l.

Quantities above are per 1000 litres clean water. Do make sure that Primafer is put as last into the tank. Feeding can be started with an EC of 2.0. Later in the crop this can be gradually increased to an EC of 2.5 in order to stimulate flower bud initiation. For adequate feeding throughout the crop it is essential to have a soil analysis taken on a regular basis.

Climate

From the start of the crop (autumn/winter) a minimum 24 hour average temperature of 12-14 °C must be maintained. It is important to keep the humidity well below 85% in order to prevent botrytis. As climate and light conditions improve, the average 24 hour temperature can be increased to 18 °C, ventilating at (about) 16 °C.

Fighting pests and diseases (P&D)

Pests

- * Slugs
- * Thrip
- * Aphids
- * Red spider mite
- * Whitefly

Diseases

- * Botrytis
- * Soil fungi

Unless you have experience with the chemicals in Alstroemeria, it is always recommended to check with your regular P&D advisor and/or Hilverda before the application of chemicals. Some chemicals may cause scorch under certain circumstances, if sprayed or fogged. When there is no experience with chemicals on Alstroemeria, it is always best to have a spot-wise experimental trial first.

Spacing

6-8 weeks after potting the plants can be spaced to final spacing; the number per m² depending (also) on the pot size. Plants grown too close together will not achieve the nice rounded and compact shape. It is recommended that the plants are graded in size when spacing takes place.

Cropping/marketing

Plants can be sold with a minimum of 2-3 open flower rosettes. Remove any yellow leaves and place the 'Inticancha®' sticker in the pot. Sleeving of the plants will not be necessary and make sure the plants are sufficiently moist.

Advice to the consumer

The following advices can be given to the consumer/customer:

- do not place your Inticancha® in full sunlight, but preferably in a semi-shaded place;
- make sure plants are kept sufficiently moist by watering regularly, in hot weather conditions possibly daily;
- plants must be regularly fed, using a compound fertiliser;
- dead flower stems can be removed by 'pulling' the flower stems carefully from the bottom of the plant. The 'wound' caused will help to initiate the next flowers;
- if the plant is re-potted, only use pots with sufficient drainage holes in the bottom;
- alstroemeria is not winter hardy, so must be protected from frost if overwintering is wanted.

If the Inticancha® is well looked after, it will provide continuous flowering until the first frost!

The information in this brochure is correct to the best of our knowledge. It must be noted however that Inticancha® pot Alstroemeria is a new product still in development. HilverdaKooij cannot accept responsibility for any (crop) damage resulting from information in this brochure