



# UNICORN™ Cultural Guide



March 2023



# UNICORN™

AVAILABLE FOR TRIALS

2023

- Color: green
- Average stem length: 90-150 cm
- Planting Density: 6 plants/m<sup>2</sup>
- Pinching: after Rosset establishment
- Cycle: 14 weeks to start of harvesting (2.5 flushes per year)
- Lighting: needs 12-14 hour (Recommended bulbs 7Watts LED lamp)

## PRODUCT USP:

- Brand new product
- Fitting the green trend
- Perennial which it is an grower friendly crop
- Unique shape of the inflorescence
- High tolerance to Rust
- Flexibility and flowing movement
- Feminine softness



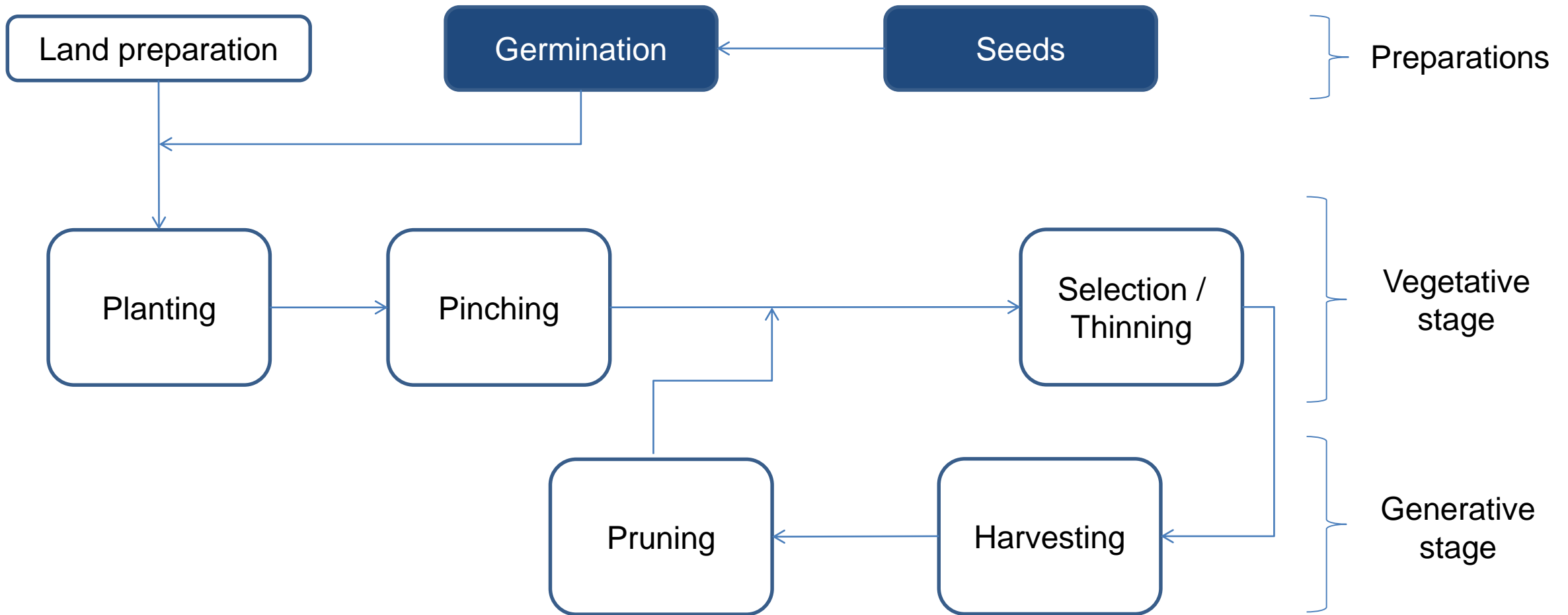
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# Growing protocol flow diagram



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Coco peat, peat moss or a mixture can be used  
Mixture- Coco peat + vermiculite/perlite



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Direct sowing of the seeds on plugs can also be done.



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# Germination

This crop germinates in 4 to 6 days and very easy to germinate i.e. 99% success



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4-5 weeks for ready  
plants



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- Watering- light shower is given daily for direct sown seeds
  - For transplanted seedlings, transfer to misting program.
- Fertilization- Apply NPK foliar the second week.
- 1 week hardening before packing



# General growing guidelines

- Germination 6 days, Hardening the seedlings 15 days
- Planting Density : 6 plants per meter
- Flowering cycle : 14 weeks approx.
- 4 season countries:
  - Lighting : needs to add to 16 hours day length per day (for flower induction)  
Recommended bulbs 7Watts LED lamp.
  - Ga application: if the rosette is getting big and no signs for emerging of shoots, Ga application is recommended 100-300 ppm depends on the temperatures.



# Pinching

- Pinch should be done after establishment of the rosette, approximately 20 leafs

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# Crop protection

The crop is slightly sensitive to Powdery mildew

Main Disease / Pest	Active Ingredients
Powdery mildew	Boscalid, Fluoxastrobin, Azoxystrobin, Azoxystrobin

After pruning → apply Carbendazim / Captan to prevent die back on the cut points.



Its very important to practice integrated pest and disease management from planting to harvesting stage.  
(Use of sticky cards, sprays and biological controls to keep the crop clean and healthy)

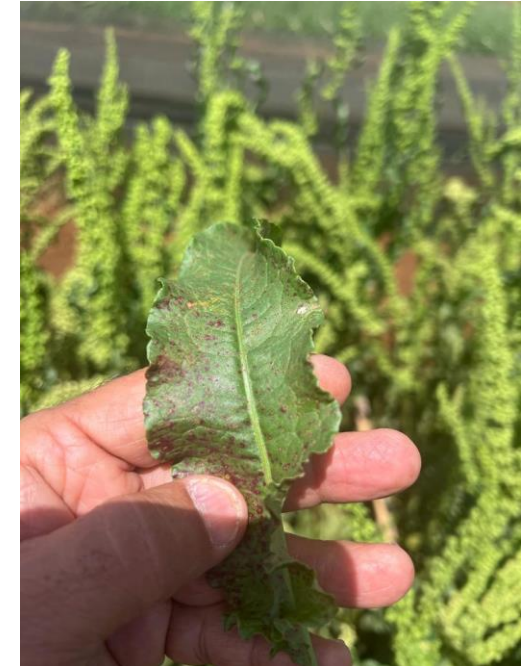
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# Crop protection

Below are the recommended chemicals to use against Rust infection in Unicorn.

Rust Chemicals			
<u>Active Ingredient</u>	<u>Mode of action</u>	<u>Sample chemical Trade names</u>	<u>Application rates</u>
Azoxystrobin	Systemic ==> Interferes with fungal life cycle, mainly during spore germination and tissue penetration	Othello	05grams / litre
Myclobutanil	Systemic ==> Acts as steroid demethylation inhibitor, specifically inhibiting ergosterol biosynthesis.	Tomahawk	0.7ml / litre
Copper Oxychloride	Systemic ==> Prevents infection on plants by interfering with the enzyme system of spores and mycelium, a process which is usually irreversible. It forms a chemical barrier against fungal attack.	Metacop	1gram / litre
Difenoconazole	Systemic ==> Stops the development of fungi by interfering with the biosynthesis of sterols in cell membranes. Long-lasting preventive activity combined with curative and eradicant properties; fast uptake and high translaminar movement.	Score	0.5ml / litre



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# Fertilization & Supplementation

UNICORN™ is not a heavy feeder.

- EC of 1.8 to 2.0 works well for this crop.
- For the first 2 weeks after planting, its advisable to keep high humidity to cool the plants at least 2 hours everyday at the hottest time of the day by overhead sprinklers.
- Reduce 50% of irrigation/fertilization after pruning till new shoots develop.



Overhead showering after planting

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# Pruning

1<sup>st</sup> flush



1<sup>st</sup> pruning week after



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# Pruning

2<sup>nd</sup> pruning can be done to soil level



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# Harvesting (cut stage)

very important to harvest in the right cut stage-

Late with harvest- the stem become heavy and increase the shipping costs

Harvesting too early- will cause to shorter vase life

Ripe seeds-  
fully mature stem



Cut stage of  
apical fruits



The indicator to how ripe the fruits are is the stripe in the center of the fruit and the color shade, the thicker the stripe is and the darker the color the more full the seeds are.

You need to harvest once the top has just formed seeds and the stripe is minimally thin and color is light green.

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# Influence of Cut Stage

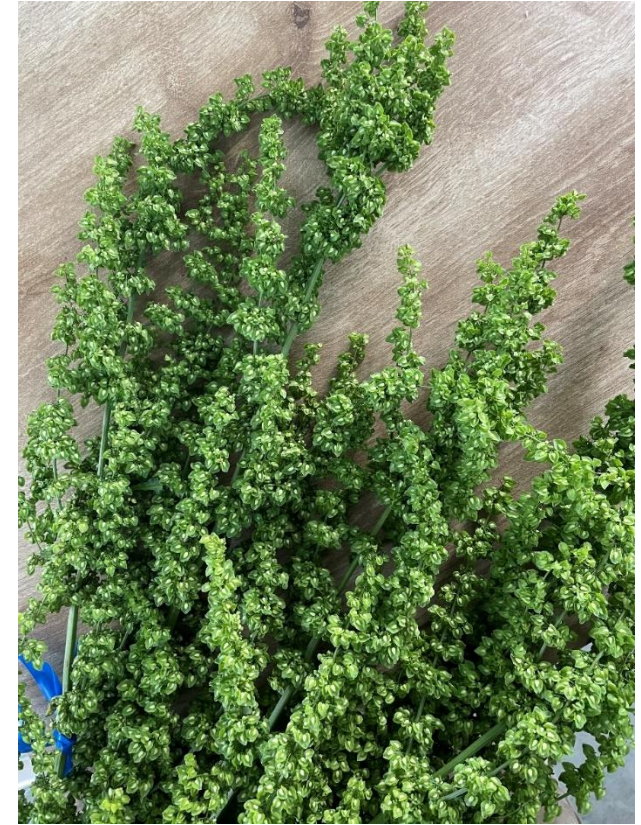
- When cut late the plants lose their vibrant color quicker





Spraying Cytokinin (TOG L101) in the field  
2 days before harvest @ 0.15%  
concentration

\*\*\*Ba



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# Post Harvest Recommendation

\*\*\*Based on unfinished trials

- Dipping in Polar (fungicide) @ 0.05% concentration
- Charging solution of:
  - Sugar 3%
  - L103 @ 0.15% (gibberellin + acid + adjuvant)

Day 8



Day 1



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# Post-Harvest

## Process

- Harvest in the morning (harvesting solution L103 15ml/L (0.15%) + Sugar (5%))
- Take to cold room (4-6degrees) i.e. pre-cooling 2-4 hours
- Grading
- Dip in
- Sugar 3%
- L103 @ 0.15% (gibberellin + acid + adjuvant)
- Dry
- Packing in Sleeves
- Put back in post-harvest solution (L103 + Sugar) , overnight in cold room (4-6 degrees)
- Pack for shipment

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# Post-Harvest

Harvested



Pre- cooling



Grading



Post  
harvest  
solution



Packing  
in sleeve



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**THANK YOU**