



# Helianthus 'Suncatcher'

## General product information

Helianthus 'Suncatcher' is a perennial sunflower and has a zone 5 hardiness. This makes the 'Suncatcher' Helianthus extremely good for garden use in a wide range of zone's.

The 'Suncatcher' is bred in the north of Germany by Hartwig Bull. The habit of this cultivar is shorter and more compact than other H. decapetalus types.

Here in the north we have experienced that Helianthus 'Suncatcher' is less effective to Powdery Mildew than other Helianthus of this group. This makes the 'Suncatcher' interesting for production.

The Helianthus 'Suncatcher' is a perfect pollinator and attracts all kind of Bee's, Bumblebee's and other insects.



Figure 1 Helianthus 'Suncatcher Pure Gold' 5"

## Growing details

- pH 5,5 – 6,0
- Substrate
  - Substrat mix should contain coarse components for good drainage
  - Use peat with a granulation of 0,25" to 1"
  - 20% wood fiber is also possible
  - Basic fertilization with a coated fertilizer and release time of 5-6 month. Use about 0,5 oz per 1 gal substrate
- Water management
  - Keep always moist
  - Overhead irrigation is possible
  - Dripper system is good as well (can later be a benefit for later GR-treatments)
- Fertilization
  - Fertilize with every watering
    - Start with a 21-10-11 or similar
    - Continue and finish with 15-15-15
    - Calcium nitrate can help moving plants if too small
    - 150 – 200 ppm N will be fine
- Pinching
  - A Suncatcher needs no pinch! Plants will branch without.
- Growth retardants
  - B-Nine spray with 3.000 ppm
    - During rooting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week
    - after transplanting – start when the plant is about 8" high
  - Perfect results we have achieved with a Bonzi drench
    - 30 – 60 ppm
    - 2 wks later a 2<sup>nd</sup> drench if needed
  - Bonzi spray can work as well 30–60 ppm

## Pests

Helianthus 'Suncatcher' are not very attracted by pests. Please monitor for

- Aphids in the early season
- Spidermites in warm and dry climates
- Maybe some caterpillar in the late season

## Diseases

Due to the structure of the foliage which is rather strong, fungus diseases don't occur often. In the late season when it come to autumn conditions maybe a little Mildew can be detected. This is caused due to the fact, that the plant leads back proteins, starch and hormones into the root system for overwintering.



Figure 2 Rootsystem for overwintering

During the croptime there is no bigger problem with Mildew.

Botrytis might be fought with common fungizides

**For production in a 1gal container**

- Start with liners (RC)
  - Start with 2 rooted cuttings / liners per container
  - No pinch necessary
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Bonzi drench
    - Plant is about 8" high
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bonzi drench
    - depending on growth and habit



Figure 3 Helianthus 'Suncatcher' in 1 gal

**Production in a 5" pot**

- Start with liners (RC)
  - start with a rooted cutting / liner
  - No pinch necessary
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Bonzi drench
    - Plant is about 5" high
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bonzi drench
    - depending on growth and habit



Figure 2 Helianthus 'Suncatcher' 5" pot on danish trolley

We recommend to grow Helianthus 'Suncatcher' not under glas or plastic cover. A Helianthus 'Suncatcher' stays outdoor grown much more compact due to

- higher light levels
  - more UV-light
  - lower average temperatures



Total weeks of production for Helianthus 'Suncatcher' without pinching (recommended)															
↓		B-Nine 			B-Nine 	1 <sup>st</sup> Bonzi 		2 <sup>nd</sup> Bonzi 							
URC - Rooting in liner / 4 wks				growing			about 5-8"	Only if needed			Flower				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	

Total weeks of production for Helianthus 'Suncatcher' with pinching														
↓		B-Nine 			B-Nine 	pinch 	B-Nine 	1 <sup>st</sup> Bonzi 		2 <sup>nd</sup> Bonzi 				
URC - Rooting in liner / 4 wks				growing			about 5-8"	Only if needed			Flower			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15