

Argyranthemum

Sassy®



VEGETATIVE ARGYRANTHEMUM

The following cultural factors must be managed properly to produce and finish a high quality crop.

RECEIVING UNROOTED/CALLUSED CUTTINGS

Open the boxes upon arrival. Cuttings should be stuck as soon as possible. Cuttings may be temporarily stored overnight at 8°C in open boxes.

ROOTING UNROOTED CUTTINGS

Root Emergence: 10-14 days

Total Rooting Time: 21-28 days

Preparation Prior to Arrival of Cuttings: Clean and disinfect propagation area. Place rooting media on the bench shortly before arrival of cuttings. Preservation of cutting quality is dependant upon how quickly cuttings are stuck into ideal propagation conditions.

Rooting Hormones: Hormones will encourage uniform rooting. Determine proper concentrations prior to sticking the entire crop. Excess hormones can cause severe damage.

Misting: Cuttings will require mist up until the 10th to 14th day or until roots begin to push into media. If using bottom heat, the cuttings may require occasional misting overnight during this crucial period. Mist for short durations as needed to keep cuttings turgid and prevent wilting. Frequency will be dependant upon light and temperature conditions. Excess misting can leach nutrients and create conditions favorable for disease.

Disease Control: A preventative soil drench for Pythium can be made any time after sticking. Preventative sprays aid in controlling Botrytis. Excessive pesticides usage either in frequency or concentration may delay root development.

Moisture: Moisture level 4 (wet). Media is wet to the touch, but not saturated. After roots are established, keep foliage as dry as possible.

Ventilation: Ventilation and Horizontal Air Flow fans are the most important tools in reducing Botrytis infections after rooting.

Humidity: 90%+

Air Temperature: 20-23°C

Bottom Heat Temperature: 20-23°C

pH: 5.6 – 5.9

Media EC: 0.75 mS/cm (SME)

Light: Argyranthemum benefits from the brightest light possible. Light shade might be needed during the early stages of propagation.

Fertilizer: Begin feeding after roots are visible. Initially fertilize at 75 to 100 ppm N and gradually increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as the root mass develops.

Growth Regulators: 'Sassy' has been engineered for naturally compact plant growth. PGR's may not be needed depending on light levels and pot size. If needed to avoid stretch, 'Sassy' will respond to low rates of Alar at 1500 – 2500 ppm Cycocel at 1000 – 1500 ppm, or a combination spray of both chemicals.

FINISHING ROOTED CUTTINGS

Disease Prevention/Sanitation: Preventing plant disease is the easiest and most cost effective method to control potential disease problems. Prior to the arrival of your rooted cuttings disinfect all growing surfaces. Use only new pots and fresh media.

Media: Select a porous media that drains well. Many commercially available mixes work well for argyranthemum.

Pre-Plant: Thoroughly water the rooted cuttings until media is saturated. Moisten finish container media till wet to the touch, but not saturated. Dibble a small hole to prevent breaking of delicate roots when transplanting rooted cuttings.

Transplanting: Transplant directly into finish container with the rooting media level with the potting media in the container. Planting too shallow will promote excessive drying out and wilting of the rooting cutting despite a moist environment.

Media pH: 5.5 to 6.3

Moisture: Alternate Moisture Level 4/1.5 Moisture level 4 (wet): Media is wet to the touch, but not saturated. Moisture Level 1.5 (dry): Media has changed color to a light brown. Water early in the day to allow foliage to dry before nightfall.

Fertilizer: Feed with complete, balanced fertilizers at 200-250 ppm N. Extra iron applications may be required to promote good leaf color. Provide adequate magnesium.

Media EC: 2.0-2.5 mS/cm

Temperature: Provide 16-24°C days; 10-16°C nights. Tolerant of cool temperatures, 'Sassy' will bloom year round under mild winter conditions. Argyranthemum will not tolerate a hard frost.

Light: Argyranthemum performs best under high light conditions. Provide 6,000-9,000 foot candles. Capable of flowering year round, flowering is most prolific under long days in the spring and summer months.

Pinching: If growing in large containers, a soft pinch will encourage additional basal branching. Under low light conditions, a soft pinch 1-2 weeks after transplanting is recommended. Pinching plant too hard may delay flowering. Pinching is usually not required for small "quick-crop" containers.

Growth Regulators: 'Sassy' has been bred for a naturally compact habit. To avoid stretch under low light levels apply Cycocel at 1,000-1,500 ppm, B-nine at 1,500-2,500 ppm, or a combination of both chemicals. Begin treatments two weeks after transplanting.

Common Pests: Aphids, thrips, leafminers, whitefly

Common Diseases: Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Pythium.

SCHEDULING

Rooted to 10cm finish: 6-7 weeks; recommended one plant per pot.

Rooted to 15cm finish: 9-10 weeks; recommend one plants per pot.

Rooted to 25cm basket finish: 10-12 weeks, recommend 3-4 plants per pot

Rooted to 30cm basket finish: 11-13 weeks, recommend 4-5 plants per pot

GARDEN PERFORMANCE

Garden Height: 25-40 cm

Width: 30-35 cm