

calibrachoa

Callie™



VEGETATIVE CALIBRACHOA

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

RECEIVING UNROOTED CALIBRACHOA 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 CALIBRACHOA CUTTINGS

Root Emergence: 7-10 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: 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 4th to 6th 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. Irrigate in the morning to prevent botrytis infections. Over-watering in combination with pH above 6.0 will cause iron deficiency in Calibrachoa.

Ventilation: In addition to a preventive spray program, ventilation and Horizontal Air Flow fans are the most important tools in reducing botrytis infections.

Humidity: 70-80 %

Air Temperature: 18°-22° C

Bottom Heat Temperature: 20-21° C. Bottom heat is recommended to promote uniform rooting.

pH: 5.5-6.0. pH levels above 6.0 in combination with over-watering can promote iron deficiency.

Media EC: 1.0 – 1.5

Light: Shade fresh cuttings, at 1500-2000 foot candles, the first week to reduce transpiration and to avoid excessive misting. Under cool conditions, cuttings with established roots can tolerate higher light levels, 3500-4500 foot candles.

Fertilizer: Apply as soon as cuttings start to root at 50-100 ppm N.

FINISHING ROOTED CALIBRACHOA CUTTINGS

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

Media: Select a porous media that drains well. A pre-plant charge of micro and macro-nutrients is recommended.

Pre-Plant: Thoroughly water the plugs 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 the plugs.

Transplanting: Transplant directly into finish container with rooting media level with soil in container. Rooting media above soil line will promote excessive drying out and wilting of the plugs despite a moist environment.

Media pH: 5.5-5.8. pH levels above 6.0 in combination with over-watering can promote iron deficiency.

Moisture: Alternate moisture level 4/2. Moisture level 4 (wet). Media is wet to the touch, but not saturated. Moisture level 2 (medium). Media has changed colour from dark black to a medium brown. Irrigate early in the morning to allow foliage to dry before nightfall. Do not allow plants to wilt. Drought stress will increase crop time and can potentially build up salt levels sufficiently to burn root hairs and promote root diseases. Symptoms of excessive drying include tip burn, and root tip dieback. Calibrachoa is susceptible to Pythium if media is kept saturated for extended periods.

Fertilizer: Calibrachoa are heavy feeders. Once new root growth is initiated, begin a constant liquid feed program with a neutral nitrate based fertilizer, such as 20-4.3-16.6 or 21-5-20 at 200 – 250 ppm nitrogen. Choose an acid based fertilizer that will maintain pH levels below 6.0. If pH levels exceed 6.0, supplemental foliar applications of iron chelate to the foliage or iron sulfate applied to the soil may be necessary to keep the foliage green.

Media EC: Regular leaching to maintain EC levels between 1.5-2.0 is recommended.

Temperature: 20-22°C days; 17-18°C nights.

Light: Provide 4000-6000 foot candles to promote compact growth. Callie has been bred to easily flower for early spring sales.

Pinching: Recommended to improve branching and compactness. After roots are actively growing, pinch back to three nodes. For larger containers, a second pinch may be applied two to three weeks later. Again, pinch new growth back to the third node.

Growth Regulators: Alar applications can begin 5-15 days after transplant. Apply Alar at 250-5000 ppm. Late applications of growth regulators can delay flowering.

Common Pests: Aphids, Thrips

Common Diseases: Botrytis, Pythium, Rhizoctonia

SCHEDULING

Rooted to 100mm finish: 8-10 weeks

Rooted to 140mm finish: 9-11 weeks

Rooted to 250mm-300mm basket finish: 9-11 weeks

GARDEN PERFORMANCE

Location: Full sun

Garden Height: 15-25cm

Trailing Length: 25-30cm