

D  
diascia

Darla™



#### 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 7-10°C in open boxes.

#### ROOTING UNROOTED CUTTINGS

**Root Emergence:** 10-14 days

**Total Rooting Time:** 21-24 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:** Rooting hormones will encourage uniform rooting. Determine proper concentrations prior to sticking the entire crop. Excess hormones can cause severe damage.

**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

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

**Air Temperature:** 20-23°C

**Bottom Heat Temperature:** 20- 23°C

**pH:** 5.6 – 6.0

**Media EC:** 1.0

**Light:** To reduce stem stretch and to encourage branching, the plants should be grown under high light condition. Avoid unnecessary heat stress induced by high temperatures and water stress.

**Pinching:** Diascia can be pinched 7 to 10 days before transplanting to improve branching and habit.

**Fertilizer:** Begin feeding with 75 to 100 ppm when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as the root mass develops.

#### 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. A pre-plant charge of micro- and macro-nutrients is recommended.

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

**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 rooting cutting despite a moist environment.

**Media pH:** 5.6 to 6.0

**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 color from dark black to a medium brown. Irrigate early in the morning to allow foliage to dry before nightfall. Avoid high humidity and wet foliage.

**Fertilizer:** Constant liquid feed with a balanced fertilizer at 200 to 250 ppm N.

**Temperature:** 11-16 °C nights; 17-24 °C days.

**Light:** Provide 5,000 - 8,000 foot candles (50,000 - 80,000 lux). Diascia is day neutral. Low light levels may promote stretching. Reduce light intensity when temperatures are high to prevent flower and leaf burning.

**Pinching:** Pinching is recommended to encourage basal branching. Pinch 7-10 days after transplanting.

**Growth Regulators:** If needed, Alar at 1500 to 2500 ppm can be applied 2 weeks after transplant.

**Common Pests:** Aphids, thrips, whitefly, leafminers

**Common Diseases:** Botrytis, Phythium, Rhizoctonia

#### SCHEDULING

**Rooted to 10cm finish:** 5-7 weeks

**Rooted to 15cm finish:** 7-9 weeks; recommend 1-2 plants per pot.

**Rooted to 25cm basket finish:** 9-11 weeks; recommend 4-5 plants per pot  
**Rooted to 30cm basket finish:** 9-11 weeks; recommend 4-5 plants per pot

#### GARDEN PERFORMANCE

**Garden Height:** 15-20cm

**Width:** 15-20cm