lobelia

Techno™ & Techno™ Heat

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: 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 10th 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: 5.5 - 5.8

Media EC: 0.75 - 0.80 mS/cm (SME)

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 light and water stress.

Fertilizer: Begin feeding when roots become visible. Initially fertilize at 75 ppm N and gradually increase to 150 ppm N as the root mass develops. Avoid excessive phosphorus and ammoniacal nitrogen which may encourage excessive vegetative growth in favor of a strong root system.

FINISHING ROOTED CUTTINGS

'Techno' Lobelia has been engineered for early flowering on a well-branched compact trailing plant. Grower friendly, the tightly mounded and trailing habit produces full baskets that are easy to handle and ship.

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 commercial mixes work well for lobelia.

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: 5.6-6.2

Moisture: Moisture Level 3 (moist). Media is black but not glistening. The key to growing successful crop is to avoid severe water stress and drying out of media.

Fertilizer: Constant liquid feed with a balanced fertilizer at 200 ppm N. Avoid excessive use of phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen which will encourage vegetative growth at the expense of flowers.

Media EC: 1.5-2.0 mS/cm (SME).

Temperature: Lobelia prefers relatively cool conditions, 13-18 °C nights; 21-27 °C days.

Light: Lobelia prefers to be grown under bright conditions. Provide 5,000-8,000 foot candles. 'Techno' is day neutral. High light in combination with cool temperature promotes the highest quality plants. Low light levels may promote stretching.

Pinching: Pinching is recommended to encourage basal branching. Pinch 10 to 14 days after transplanting. For larger containers, pinch as needed to shape the plant.

Growth Regulators: Growth Regulators are not necessary. 'Techno' has been bred to be a naturally controlled habit.

Common Pests: Spider mites, thrips

Common Diseases: Botrytis, Phythium

SCHEDULING

Rooted to 10cm finish: 8-10 weeks; recommended one plant per pot.
Rooted to 15cm finish: 9-11 weeks; recommend 2-3 plants per pot:
Rooted to 25cm basket finish: 11-12 weeks; recommend 3-4 plants per pot
Rooted to 30cm basket finish: 12-13 weeks; recommend 4-5 plants per pot

GARDEN PERFORMANCE

Garden Height: 20-25 cmtrailing plant Habit
Width: 50-60 cm