GrowerFacts

Hibiscus Little Zin

(*Hibiscus acetosella*)

A Ball FloraPlant Product

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained soilless medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos, with a 1:2 extraction and a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.
- Stick cuttings immediately upon arrival.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73?F (20 to 23?C) until roots are visible.
- Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moderately wet, but never saturated.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop.
  As the rooted cuttings develop, high light and moderate air temperatures should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGRs).
- Extended daylight period at 14 hours or night interruption is advised to keep cuttings vegetative.
- Hibiscus rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 28 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium.
- Maintain a media pH of 5.8 to 6.2.

Temperature

- Nights: 62 to 67°F (17 to 19°C)
- Days: 74 to 85°F (23 to 29°C)
- Avoid excessively cool temperatures, as this can impede quality growth.

Photoperiod

- Little Zin Hibiscus could flower when grown at 12-hour day length or less. Keep day length longer than 12 hours to significantly delay flower initiation or keep flowering from ever occurring.

Light

- Keep light intensities at 6,000 to 10,000 f.c. (60,000 to 100,000 Lux).

Watering

- Little Zin should be kept evenly moist with some drying between irrigation to give the most consistent quality growth.
- When plants are young, allow the media to dry slightly between watering.
- Excessive moisture for prolonged periods can cause plant stretch and undesirable growth habit.

Fertilizer

- Use constant feed with a balanced fertilizer at 175 to 225 ppm N. Fertilizer with high nitrate-based nitrogen with lower phosphorus and higher potassium is recommended.
- A full complement of minor elements should be provided at each fertilizer application.
- Controlled-release fertilizer can be used to supplement a liquid feed program.

Pinching

- Pinching will improve overall branching and habit of the finished product.
- Pinch plants back 7 to 10 days after transplanting to improve basal branching.

Controlling Growth

- To control finished height and habit, one can apply B-Nine at rates between 2,500 ppm between 1 to 3 times. When grown at higher night temperatures under lower light, a tank mix of B-Nine 1,500 to 3,000 ppm with Cycocel 750 to 1,000 ppm can be used.
- Once finished plant height is achieved, Bonzi 1 ppm drenches are effective to control and tone plant habit.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trials all chemicals under their particular conditions.

Common Problems
Insects: Spider Mites, Aphids, Thrips

All Hibiscus Little Zin cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the Ball Certified Plants® program.

Little Zin Crop Schedule & Uses
(Crop Schedule In Weeks)

Unrooted cuttings
4-in. (10-cm) Pots 1 PP*: 9-12

6-in. (15-cm) Pots 1 to 2 PP*: 11-13

10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) Pots 3 to 5 PP*: 14-17

Rooted cuttings
4-in. (10-cm) Pots 1 PP*: 6-8

6-in. (15-cm) Pots 1 to 2 PP*: 8-10

10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) Pots 3 to 5 PP*: 10-12

*PP: Plants per pot or basket

NOTE: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

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