

## Iresine Purple Lady

(*Iresine herbstii*)

### Germination

- Low, spreading plant fills in containers well, cascading over the edges as the branches get longer and heavier.
- Ideal for mixed containers or used as a single basket item.
- Purple Lady is a low, prostrate groundcover when planted in the garden.
- Performs well in shade to part sun areas; can take more sun in humid areas such as Florida.
- Grows 6 to 8 in. (15 to 20 cm) tall in the garden, and spreads 3 to 4 ft. (0.9 to 1.2 m).

Approximate seed count: 44,800 S./oz. 1,580 S./g

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.3 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm with a 1:2 extraction).

#### Sowing

Cover the seed lightly with coarse vermiculite.

#### Temperature

**Germination:** 72 to 76°F (22 to 24°C)

**Cotyledon stage:** 65 to 72°F (18 to 22°C)

**True leaves:** 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)

**Hold plugs:** 62 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

#### Light

**Stage one:** Light is beneficial to accelerating germination.

### Plug Production

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**After germination:** 1,000 to 2,500 f.c. (10,000 to 30,000 Lux).

**Seedling maturity:** Up to 5,000 f.c. (54,000 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

#### Humidity

Maintain 95% relative humidity until cotyledons emerge.

#### Soil Moisture

Keep soil moisture high until radicle emergence, then reduce moisture levels after the radicle penetrates the medium. Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

#### Fertilizer

At radicle emergence, apply 50 to 75 ppm N from 15-0-15. As cotyledons expand, increase to 100 to 150 ppm N.

#### Growth Regulators

Not needed.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.5 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

#### Temperature

**Nights:** 62 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

**Days:** 65 to 75°F (18 to 24°C)

### **Light**

Lower light levels result in bronze-green foliage. Higher light levels result in deeper purple foliage, but may also result in puckered foliage.

### **Irrigation**

Allow plants to dry slightly between waterings.

### **Fertilizer**

Feed once a week with 150 to 200 ppm N in a complete fertilizer. Heavier feed will result in a fast-growing plant. Red foliage is a sign that the plants are underfed.

### **Growth Regulators**

Growth regulators are generally not needed. If necessary, withhold fertilizer, especially ammonium-form nitrogen to control stem elongation. Water management can also be used to provide some control.

### **Pinching**

Pinching is not needed.

### **Crop Scheduling**

**Sow to transplant (288-cell plug tray):** 5-6 weeks

**Transplant to saleable 4-in. (10-cm) pot:** 5 to 6 weeks

**Container Size:** 4 to 4.5-in. (10 to 11-cm) pot

**Plants Per Pot/Basket:** 1

**Weeks From Transplant:** 5 to 6

**Container Size:** 12 to 14-in. (30 to 35-cm) hanging baskets

**Plants Per Pot/Basket:** 4 to 5

**Weeks From Transplant:** 6 to 7

If producing liners (72-tray), allow 6 to 7 weeks from sow to transplant, and reduce post-transplant crop time by two weeks.

### **Common Problems**

**Insects:** Watch for aphids.

**Diseases:** No serious problems.

### **Green Thumb Tips**

Grow in full sun to part shade. Higher light results in deeper purple foliage, while deeper shade results in greener foliage, larger leaves and more upright growth habit. Use as a cascading plant in mixed containers. Purple Lady iresine can also be used as a groundcover in the garden. Space 12 in. (30 cm) apart in the garden. Feed regularly with an all-purpose fertilizer. Bright red foliage is a sign that the plants are underfed.

