

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.

