

## Statice Fortress

(*Limonium sinuatum*)

### Germination

- Time of radicle emergence (3-5 days)
- Soil temperature 70-75° F (21-24° C).
- Keep media evenly moist but not saturated.
- Cover the seed lightly with coarse vermiculite.
- Light at 100-400 foot-candles may be beneficial for germination.
- Soil pH 5.5-5.8 and soluble salts (EC) less than 0.75 mmhos/cm (2:1 extraction).
- Statice is very sensitive to high salts, particularly high ammonium, during germination.
- Keep ammonium levels less than 10 ppm.

### Plug Production

#### **STAGE 1** Time of radicle emergence (3-5 days)

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#### **STAGE 2** Stem and cotyledon emergence (4-7 days)

- Soil temperature 70-75° F (21-24° C).
- Reduce moisture levels once radicle emergence occurs! Allow the soil to dry out slightly before watering for best germination and rooting.
- Keep soil pH 5.5-5.8 and EC less than 0.75 mmhos/cm.
- Keep ammonium levels less than 10 ppm.
- Begin fertilizing with 50 75 ppm N from 14-0-14 or a calcium/potassium nitrate feed once cotyledons are fully expanded.
- Alternate feed with clear water.
- Irrigate early in the day so foliage is dry by nightfall to prevent diseases.

#### **STAGE 3** Growth and development of true leaves (10-14 days)

- Soil temperature 65-70° F (18-21° C).
- Allow the soil to dry thoroughly between irrigations

but avoid permanent wilting to promote root growth and control shoot growth.

- Maintain soil pH 5.5-5.8 and EC less than 1.0 mmhos/cm.
- Increase feed to 100 150 ppm N from 20-10-20 alternating with 14-0-14 or other calcium/potassium nitrate fertilizer.
- Fertilize every 2 3 irrigations.
- If using 15-0-15 supplement with magnesium 1 2x during this stage, using magnesium sulfate (16 oz/100 gal) or magnesium nitrate. Do not mix magnesium sulfate with calcium nitrate as precipitate will form!
- Use DIF whenever possible, especially the first 2 hours after sunrise, to control plant height.
- Plant growth regulators are not needed for statice.

#### **STAGE 4** Plants ready for transplanting or shipping (7 days)

- Soil temperature 60-65° F (16-18° C).
- Allow soil to dry thoroughly between irrigations.
- Maintain soil pH 5.5-5.8 and EC less than 0.75 mmhos/cm.
- Fertilize with 14-0-14 or calcium/potassium nitrate feed at 100 150 ppm N as needed.

### Growing On to Finish

#### **TEMPERATURE**

- Night -- 50-55° F (10-13° C)
- Day -- 55-60° F (13-16° C)

#### **LIGHT**

- Maintain light levels as high as possible while maintaining moderate temperatures.
- MEDIA**

- Use a well-drained, disease-free soil-less medium with a medium initial nutrient charge and a pH 5.5-6.2.

## FERTILIZATION

•Fertilize every other irrigation with 15-0-15 alternating with 20-10-20 at 150-200 ppm nitrogen. •Maintain medium electrical conductivity around 1.0 mmhos/cm (using 1:2 extraction).

## CONTROLLING HEIGHT

- Once plants are rooted to the sides of the containers they can be allowed to wilt prior to irrigation to provide some height control.
- Height can also be controlled by withholding fertilizer, especially phosphorous and ammonium-form nitrogen.
- Statice are responsive to day/night temperature differential (DIF), and are shorter with a negative DIF.
- Growth regulators are not needed for statice.

## Post Production Care

### TEMPERATURE

Optimum temperatures for statice:

- Night -- 50-55° F (10-13° C)
- Day -- 55-60° F (13-16° C)
- Optimum conditions may be difficult to maintain, especially if plants are displayed outside.
- Using a negative DIF will help keep the plants short and of high quality.

### LIGHT

Statice prefers full sun.

