

Centaurea Montana

(*Centaurea montana*)

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos and a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.
- Stick cuttings the day of arrival if possible. Otherwise, store at 45°F (7°C) for not more than 18 hours before sticking.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 70 to 72°F (21 to 24°C) until roots are visible.
- A rooting hormone basal dip of 1,000 ppm IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Average days with mist: 12 to 14 days.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N when roots become visible.
- During root development, maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media.
- Do not bury growing tip when sticking.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 5 to 6 weeks after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- Use media with good aeration and drainage.
- Prefers a medium that is high in organic matter.
- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum.

Temperature

- **Nights:** 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C)
- **Days:** 55 to 60°F (13 to 16°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 55 to 60°F (13 to 16°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of temperatures.
- Vernalization not required for flowering. However, *Centaurea Lavender Mist* benefits from bulking in the final container to influence early flowering and fuller plants. Late Summer/early Fall planting is recommended.

Light

Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 3,000 to 5,000 f.c. (30,000 to 50,000 Lux).

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry regularly between watering and never saturated. However, plants should not be allowed to wilt at any time.
- Leach regularly to avoid the buildup of high soluble

salt levels.

Fertilizer

Use a balanced fertilizer at a rate of 125 to 150 ppm. Periodic use of a calcium-based fertilizer should help optimize the nutrient levels.

Pinching

Pinching is not required.

Controlling Growth

Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments.

Key Tip

Finish in full sun conditions for strongest color and best plant habit.

Common Problems

Insects: Thrips, Whitefly, Spider Mite

Diseases: *Centaurea* can be sensitive to crown and root rot diseases when overwatered. These are easily prevented with proper growing practices.

Problem: Cupping foliage

Causes: Stress caused by overwatering or underwatering

Problem: Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers

Causes: Excessive ammonium-based fertilizer; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light and over-watering; saturated media

Problem: Yellowing of older foliage

Causes: Saturated media

Problem: Foliage necrosis

Causes: High soluble salts in media; Excessive water stress; Insect damage

Problem: Poor branching and thin plants

Causes: Inadequate bulking time; Low light conditions

Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule in Weeks – Summer/Fall planting is recommended)

1 PPP* 1-qt. (10-cm) Pot

Unrooted cutting Not recommended

Rooted cutting Not recommended

1 PPP* 1-gal. (15-cm) Pot

Unrooted cutting Plant by Week 35 in the North; plant by Week 40 in the South

Rooted cutting Stick by Week 30 in the North; stick by Week 35 in the South

3 PPP* 2 to 3-gallon (25 to 30-cm) pot

Unrooted cutting Plant by Week 32 in the North; plant by Week 37 in the South

Rooted cutting Stick by Week 28 in the North; stick by Week 32 in the South

*PPP: 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.

