

Erysimum Bowles Me Away

(*Erysimum linifolium*)

Propagation

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- 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 for not more than 18hr 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 500-1000ppm IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Average days with mist: 10 to 12 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.
- Can be pinched after roots have been established. Be sure to leave 4 or 5 active internodes.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 6 to 7 weeks after sticking.
- ***Don't oversaturate media. Low mist levels work best and promotes fastest rooting. Watch/treat for fungus gnat larvae.**

Growing On to Finish

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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:** 50 to 55°F (10 to 13 °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 is not required for flowering of Cheers series Erysimum.

Light

- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 3,000 to 5,000 f.c. (30,000 to 50,000 Lux).
- Erysimum do not require long days to flower.

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry moderately 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.
- Plants will require higher irrigation and fertilization levels when in flower.

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

Should be pinched 1 to 2 times. Pinch as soon as the plants are well-rooted. Pinching will maximize branching and create a more full plant.

Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments.
- Responsive to Sumagic sprays at 3-5 ppm if needed.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

Common Problems

Insects: Erysimum are not particularly pest sensitive. Watch for Aphid, Thrips and Spider mites. Treat as needed.

Diseases: Root rot and Downey Mildew can occur under poor growing conditions. Scout and treat as needed. They are susceptible to *Xanthomonas campestris*, bacterial leaf spot. Be careful when growing near non-certified Erysimum plants.

Key Tips

Establish plants in autumn to early winter for best early spring flowering performance. Vernalization not required for flowering; however, Autumn-planted containers will bloom earlier and heavier. Erysimum will flower all summer in northern climates.

Problems Causes

Cupping Foliage Stress caused by overwatering or under watering.

Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers

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

Yellowing/dropping of older foliage Saturated media
Excessive drought during flowering time

Foliage necrosis

High soluble salts in media
Excessive water stress

Poor branching and thin plants Low fertilization during early stages of growth
Low light conditions

Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule in Weeks for spring planting – Spring planting is recommended for Northern growers. If summer/fall planted, be sure to have plants well established before wk45.)

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

Unrooted cutting Not recommended

Rooted cutting Not recommended

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

Unrooted cutting 15 - 17 weeks

Rooted cutting 10 - 12 weeks

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

Unrooted cutting 19 - 21 weeks

Rooted cutting 14 - 16 weeks

*PPP: Plants per pot or basket

