

## Gaura Lindheimeri

(*Gaura lindheimeri*)

### 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 within 12 to 24 hours of arrival. Cuttings can be stored overnight, if necessary, at 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C).
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73°F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- To encourage branching and reduce stem stretch, **Ballerina**, **Siskiyou Pink** and **Corrie's Gold** Gaura should be propagated under as high a light as possible while avoiding unnecessary stress on the cuttings.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop. Avoid phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen during the rooting process to reduce stretch and unwanted vegetative growth.
- As the rooted cuttings develop, high light, appropriate water stress and moderate air temperatures should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGR).
- **Ballerina**, **Siskiyou Pink** and **Corrie's Gold** Gaura should be pinched approximately 7 days before transplanting to remove flower buds and to encourage branching.
- **Ballerina**, **Siskiyou Pink** and **Corrie's Gold** Gaura rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 24 to 28 days after sticking and should be transplanted as soon as possible. Rooted cuttings should not be held, as Gaura will be actively growing and plants will begin to crowd and stretch very quickly.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Media

Use a light, well-drained soilless medium with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.

#### Temperature

- Nights: 56 to 61°F (13 to 16°C)
- Days: 71 to 76°F (21 to 24°C)
- Higher than recommended temperatures will cause stretch, weak stems and reduced flower size.
- Recommended night temperatures will create maximum branching and the best possible habit.

#### Light

- Keep light levels as high as possible while maintaining recommended temperatures. The ideal range is 5,000 to 9,000 f.c. (50,000 to 90,000 Lux).

- Light levels below 5,000 f.c. (50,000 Lux) will promote stem stretch.

#### Watering

- During the first 10 to 14 days, water media sparingly and never saturate. Allow the media to dry somewhat between waterings.
- Avoid extended periods where the media is saturated, as this will cause root system problems.

#### Fertilizer

- Maintain constant fertilization at 175 to 225 ppm N.
- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will promote unwanted vegetative growth. Both should be provided in very limited quantities.
- Slow-release fertilizer can be incorporated at a moderate rate to supplement a liquid program.

#### Pinching

A single pinch is recommended when growing **Ballerina**, **Siskiyou Pink** and **Corrie's Gold** Gaura in 4.5 to 5-in. (11 to 13-cm) containers. The first pinch should be 10 to 14 days after transplanting. Stems should be pinched to 4 or 5 nodes. Growers may choose to pinch plants in larger, 5 to 8-in. (13 to 25-cm) containers a second time to enhance branching and the number of flowers spikes. When growing in larger containers, the second pinch should be applied 10 to 14 after the first.

#### Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, **Ballerina**, **Siskiyou Pink** and **Corrie's Gold** Gaura will not require growth regulator treatments.
- Height can be controlled, in part, by maintaining moderate fertility, allowing the media to dry slightly between watering, providing maximum light and spacing plants in advance of crowding and stretch.
- B-Nine (3,000 to 4,000 ppm), applied 1 to 3 times is effective. The first application should be 7 to 10 days after the first pinch. Likewise, Bonzi (30 to 50 ppm) or Sumagic (15 to 30 ppm) applied as a spray will control unwanted growth.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

#### Common Problems

All **Ballerina**, **Siskiyou Pink** and **Corrie's Gold** Gaura cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

**Problem:** Plant collapse

**Causes:** Wet media for an extended period of time (Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Botrytis)

**Problem:** Excessive vegetative growth

**Causes:** High ammonia in media; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Over-watering under low light conditions; Excessive phosphorous

**Problem:** Poor branching

**Causes:** Low fertilization, especially nitrogen; Low light conditions

**Problem:** Stretched plants

**Causes:** Low light conditions; Crowding before spacing; Late transplanting

### **Siskiyou Pink Gaura Crop Schedule & Uses**

#### **1 PPP\* 4.5 to 5 in. (11 to 13-cm) Pot**

**Unrooted cuttings** 10 - 13 weeks

**Rooted cuttings** 7 - 10 weeks

#### **2 to 3 PPP\* 6-in. (15-cm) Pot**

**Unrooted cuttings** 12 - 15 weeks

**Rooted cuttings** 9 - 12 weeks

#### **3 to 5 PPP\* 10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) Pot**

**Unrooted cuttings** 14 - 16 weeks

**Rooted cuttings** 11 - 13 weeks

\*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.

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