GrowerFacts

Geranium Species Oxonianum

(*Geranium x oxonianum*)

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 containing 1,000 ppm IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Average days with mist: 15 to 18 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.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 6 weeks after sticking.
- Do not stick cuttings too deep. Use a 1,000 ppm basal IBA dip for best rooting results. Do not over-mist. Although roots may take 15 to 18 days to form, mist should be used only to reduce excess wilting. Over-misting will delay root development.

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:** 50 to 55°F (10 to 13°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 50 to 55°F (10 to 13°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of temperatures.
- Vernalization not required for flowering. Bulking is beneficial for early flowering and best plant habit. Therefore, 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 moderately between watering and never saturated. However, plants should not be allowed to wilt at anytime.
- Leach regularly to avoid the buildup of high soluble salt levels.

Fertilizer

Use a balanced fertilizer at a rate of 100 to 125 ppm. Periodic use of a calcium-based fertilizer should help optimize the nutrient levels.

Pinching

No pinching required.

Controlling Growth

- Will not require growth regulator treatments.
- Responsive to B-Nine/Cycocel at 1,500/800 ppm if needed to control petiole stretch.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

Key Tips

Finish under cool night temperatures and high light for greatest foliage and flower intensity and best plant habit.

Common Problems

Insects: Whitefly

Diseases: Not disease sensitive

Problems: Cupping foliage

Causes: Stress caused by overwatering or underwatering

Problems: 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

Problems: Yellowing of young foliage

Causes: Saturated media

Problems: Foliage necrosis

Causes: High soluble salts in media; Excessive water stress

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

Unrooted cutting
1-quart (10-cm) pot 1 PPP*: Not recommended

1-gallon (15-cm) pot 1 PPP*: North: Plant by Week 35 - South: Plant by Week 40

2 to 3-gallon (25 to 30-cm) pot 3 PPP*: North: Plant by Week 32 - South: Plant by Week 37

Rooted cutting
1-quart (10-cm) pot 1 PPP*: Not recommended

1-gallon (15-cm) pot 1 PPP*: North: Stick by Week 30 - South: Stick by Week 35

2 to 3-gallon (25 to 30-cm) pot 3 PPP*: North: Stick by Week 28 - South: Stick by Week 32

*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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