

## Strawflower Dreamtime™

(*Bracteantha bracteatum*)

A Ball FloraPlant Product

### 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
- Open boxes immediately upon arrival. 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
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop
- As the rooted cuttings develop, high light, moderate water stress and the proper air temperatures will reduce the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGRs)
- Pinching should not be necessary during propagation
- In warmer climates, application of Bonzi (2 to 3 ppm spray) to Jumbo Yellow 10 to 14 days after sticking will reduce unwanted stretching
- **Dreamtime** Bracteantha (Strawflower) rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 28 days after sticking

### Growing On to Finish

#### Media

- Use a soilless medium with good aeration, drainage and water-holding capacity
- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 with a high starter charge is optimal
- Test soil regularly for pH and salt levels.

#### Temperature

- Nights: 56 to 61°F (13 to 16°C)
- Days: 65 to 76°F (18 to 24°C)
- Night temperatures above 65°F (18°C) will promote rapid, soft growth. Day temperatures below 65°F (18°C) will significantly slow crop

#### Light

- **Dreamtime** Bracteantha grow best at 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux)
- Higher light intensity and longer days promote earlier flowering

#### Watering

- Allow the media to dry moderately between waterings

- To avoid leaf tip burn, do not allow media to dry completely or the plant to wilt repeatedly
- Keep foliage dry at night

#### Fertilizer

- Use a constant feed at 175 to 225 ppm N
- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will promote unwanted vegetative growth. Both should be provided in very limited quantities
- Apply additional iron if younger leaves become chlorotic
- Plants are sensitive to high soluble salt levels. Leach pots with clear water periodically to prevent salt damage

#### Pinching

No pinching is necessary for **Dreamtime** Bracteantha.

#### Controlling Growth

- **Dreamtime** Bracteantha are very responsive to Bonzi (20 to 30 ppm) and Sumagic (10 to 20 ppm)
- **Dreamtime** Bracteantha are more vigorous than Basket Bon Bon and will require more growth regulator treatments when grown in small containers
- 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:** Aphids, spider mites, whitefly and leaf miner

**Diseases:** Botrytis, Pythium

All **Dreamtime** Bracteantha cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

**Problem:** Plant collapse

**Causes:** Stem canker (Botrytis); Saturated soil for extended periods of time (Pythium)

**Problem:** Slow or weak flower initiation

**Causes:** Low light conditions; Short daylength; Night temperature too warm

**Problem:** Foliage necrosis, chlorosis

**Causes:** Media too moist; High salt levels

**Problem:** Stretched plants

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

### **Dreamtime Bracteantha Crop Schedule & Uses**

#### **Unrooted cuttings:**

4–5-In. (10–13-Cm) Pots 1 PP\* 9 - 11 weeks

6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 2–3 PP\* 10 - 12 weeks

10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP\* 13 - 15 weeks

#### **Rooted cuttings:**

4–5-In. (10–13-Cm) Pots 1 PP\* 6 - 8 weeks

6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 2–3 PP\* 7 - 9 weeks

10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP\* 10 - 12 weeks

\*PP: 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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