

Heliopsis Sunstruck

(*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

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 containing 500 ppm IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Heliopsis root well under low to moderate mist regimes. You should see root development in 10 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.
- Can be pinched after roots have been established. Be sure to leave 4 or 5 active internodes.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 35 to 42 days after sticking.
- **14 hours of extended day lighting is required for rooting during Winter months. Heliopsis plants go dormant when grown below 13-hour days.**

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:** 55 to 65°F (13 to 18°C)
- **Days:** 65 to 75°F (18 to 24°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of temperatures.
- Vernalization not required for flowering.

Light

- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Plants grow more quickly and uniformly under long day conditions and may go dormant under short day conditions. We recommend using extended day lighting (total 14 hours) during Winter months

to encourage growth for early flowering programs.

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 150 to 175 ppm. Periodic use of a calcium-based fertilizer should help optimize the nutrient levels.

Pinching

- Heliopsis 'Sunstruck' should be pinched once for smaller pot sizes, and twice for larger containers. Pinch as soon as the plants are well-rooted. Pinching will maximize branching and create a more full plant.
- Heliopsis that are overwintered will produce new shoots from their roots. Spring-planted Helianthus do not produce root shoots and should be pinched to allow 3 nodes to promote full growth.

Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments.
- Responsive to B-Nine/Cycocel at 1,500/800 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: Thrips, Whitefly, Aphids

Diseases: Heliopsis are relatively disease-free. Pythium and Rhizoctonia can result from over watering.

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 young foliage

Causes: Saturated media

Problem: Foliage necrosis

Causes: High soluble salts in media; Excessive water stress

Problem: Poor branching and thin plants

Causes: Low fertilization during early stages of growth; Low light conditions

Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule in Weeks – Spring planting is recommended)

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

Unrooted cutting 14 - 16 weeks

Rooted cutting 7 - 8 weeks

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

Unrooted cutting 16 - 19 weeks

Rooted cutting 10 - 12 weeks

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

Unrooted cutting 19 - 22 weeks

Rooted cutting 12 - 14 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.

