GrowerFacts

Lavandula Stoechas

(*Lavender stoechas*)

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 24°C) until roots are visible.
- A rooting hormone can be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Lavender prefers high humidity over mist. Keep under low mist or place cuttings under a tent and mist periodically each hour for 7 to 10 days to maintain turgidity. Avoid over-application of mist.
- 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.
- **Bella** Lavender can be pinched after roots have been established. Be sure to leave 4 or 5 active internodes.
- **Bella** Lavender rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 42 to 56 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- Use media with good aeration and drainage.
- Like most Lavender, the **Bella** series prefers a medium that will dry regularly between watering.
- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum.

Temperature

- Nights: 56 to 64°F (13 to 18°C)
- Days: 65 to 76°F (18 to 24°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 70°F (21°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of warm temperatures.
- **Bella** Lavender does not require a cold treatment for flowering.

Light

- **Bella** Lavender will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Plants grown under long days (>16 hr day lengths) will generally flower more uniformly.

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry regularly 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 175 ppm. Periodic use of a calcium based fertilizer should help optimize the nutrient levels in **Bella** Lavender.

Pinching

Bella Lavender 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.

Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, **Bella** Lavender will not require growth regulator treatments.
- **Bella** Lavender is responsive to B-Nine at 1,500 to 4,000 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, fungus gnats

Diseases: Bella Lavender is relatively disease free. Thielaviopsis, Pythium, and Rhizoctonia can result from over watering

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

Problem: Plant collapse

Causes: Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (Pythium, Thielaviopsis); Rooted cuttings transplanted too deeply

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

Bella Lavender Crop Schedule & Uses

Unrooted cutting:
4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1 PP* 12 - 15 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 1–3 PP* 14 - 16 weeks
10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP* 15 - 17 weeks

Rooted cutting:
4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1 PP* 7 - 10 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 1–3 PP* 9 - 11 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.

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