

Perovskia Atriplicifolia

(*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 1.0 to 1.25 mmhos and a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.
- Stick cuttings the day of arrival if possible. Otherwise, store at 45°F 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 of 1,000 ppm can be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Mist at moderate to high levels for the first 24 hours to rehydrate cuttings. Use a low mist setting after this period.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N 10 days after stick.
- During root development maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media. Perovskia will root slowly if rooting media is kept too wet.
- Pinching once in the propagation tray at 24 to 28 days after sticking will promote a well-branched finished plant.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 28 to 35 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- Use media with good aeration and drainage.
- Prefers a medium 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:** 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 60°F (16°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of warm temperatures.
- Perovskia are facultative long day plants. Vernalization is not necessary for flowering; however, vernalization has been shown to hasten flowering by up to two weeks.

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 grown under short days will benefit from extended day lighting to hasten flowering. Not required, however.
- Finish Perovskia outside under full sun conditions for best quality.

Watering

- Media should be allowed to dry slightly 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 125 to 150 ppm. Periodic use of a calcium based fertilizer should help optimize the nutrient levels.

Pinching

Plants should be pinched once in the propagation tray and can be pinched a second time 1 to 2 weeks after transplant to create very full plants.

Controlling Growth

Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments. Plants will respond to B-nine at 2,500 ppm if growing conditions cause stretch.

Common Problems

Insects: Whitefly, Spider Mites

Diseases: Perovskia are not particularly disease sensitive. Pythium can be a problem if overwatered.

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; Pesticide application

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-gal (15-cm) pot

Unrooted cutting 14 - 16 weeks

Rooted cutting 10 - 12 weeks

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

Unrooted cutting 14 - 16 weeks

Rooted cutting 10 - 12 weeks

*PPP: Plants per pot

