

## Phlox Paniculata

(*Phlox paniculata*)

### Propagation

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- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.8 to 1.00 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 18hr 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 500ppm 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. Phlox will root slowly if rooting media is kept too wet.
- Pinching once in the propagation tray at 28 to 32 days after sticking will promote a well-branched finished plant.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 42 to 49 days after sticking.

### Growing On to Finish

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##### 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 60°F (13 to 15°C)
- **Days:** 60 to 75°F (15 to 23°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 65°F (17°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of warm temperatures.
- Phlox do not require vernalization 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).
- Phlox are considered a long-day plant. Natural

flowering occurs when day length exceeds 13 hours.

- Finish Phlox outside under full sun conditions for best quality.

#### Watering

- The 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 150 to 200 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 again within two weeks after transplanting when there are two or fewer shoots to create very full plants.

#### Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments. Plants will respond to B-nine/Cycocel at 2,500/800ppm if growing conditions cause stretch.

#### Common Problems

**Insects:** Aphid, Spider Mite

**Diseases:** Phlox is naturally Powdery Mildew resistant however should be treated if conditions are conducive to PM. Pythium can be a problem if overwatered.

#### Problems Causes

**Plant collapse** Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (Pythium,) Rooted cuttings transplanted too deeply

**Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers**

Excessive ammonium-based fertilizer

Over-fertilization under low light conditions

Low light and over-watering; saturated media

**Yellowing of young foliage** Saturated media**Foliage necrosis**

High soluble salts in media

Excessive water stress

Pesticide application

**Crop Schedule & Uses**

(Crop Schedule in Weeks. Spring planting is recommended)

**1 PPP\* 1-qt. (10-cm) Pot**

**Unrooted cutting** Not Recommended

**Rooted cutting** Not Recommended

**1 PPP\* 1-gal. (15-cm) Pot**

**Unrooted cutting** 15 - 17 weeks

**Rooted cutting** 10 - 12 weeks

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

**Unrooted cutting** 17 - 19 weeks

**Rooted cutting** 12 - 14 weeks

\*PPP: Plants per pot

