

Salvia Species Nemorosa

(*Salvia nemorosa*)

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 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 containing 1,000 ppm IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- *Salvia* root well under low-mist regimes. You should see root development in 12 to 14 days.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N at Day 7.
- 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. A soft pinch will increase branching.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 35 to 42 days after sticking.
- **Discontinue mist as quickly as possible and only mist to avoid leaf wilt. Begin feeding 7 days after sticking with 50 to 75 ppm N.**

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:** 45 to 55°F (7 to 13°C)
- **Days:** 55 to 65°F (13 to 18°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- Vernalization not required for flowering. However, *Salvia* Burgundy Candles does benefit from bulking under short days for heavier Spring flowering.

Light

Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 3,000 to 5,000 f.c.

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry moderately 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

Should be pinched after transplant. Pinching will maximize branching and create a more full plant.

Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments.
- 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: Whitefly, Spider Mite

Diseases: Botrytis

Key Tip

Will rebloom when old flowers are removed.

Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule in Weeks – with Spring planting. If Summer-planted, be sure to have plants well established before frost.)

1 PPP* 1-quart (10-cm) pot

Unrooted cutting Not Recommended

Rooted cutting Not Recommended

1 PPP* 1-gallon (15-cm) pot

Unrooted cutting 15 - 17 weeks

Rooted cutting 10 - 12 weeks

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

Unrooted cutting 17 - 19 weeks

Rooted cutting 12 - 14 weeks

*PPP: Plants per pot or basket

