

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 (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 basal dip containing 1,000 ppm IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Average days with mist: 12 to 15 days.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N at Day 7 to avoid excessive foliar nutrition loss and speed up rooting.
- During root development, maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media which will delay rooting.
- Pinching is generally not necessary.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 5 to 6 weeks after sticking.

Key Tips

- Basal hormone dip of 1,000 ppm IBA will speed rooting.
- Over-misting and saturated propagation media will dramatically delay rooting and increase rooting losses. Discontinue mist as quickly as possible and only mist to avoid leaf wilt.

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.
- An average daily temperature of 55 to 65°F (13 to 18°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of temperatures.
- Vernalization is not required for flowering.

Light

- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 3,000 to 5,000 f.c. (30,000 to 50,000 Lux).
- *Salvia nemorosa* are day-neutral plants and do not require long days to flower. However, they will develop more quickly when day length exceeds 12 hours.

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

Pinching

Pinching is generally not required. *Salvia nemorosa* are naturally well-branched. Flower buds should be removed while plants are developing.

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.

Key Tips

Salvia Blue Marvel has excellent re-blooming. It will bloom continuously or can be cut back for a full flush of flowers 4 to 5 weeks later.

Common Problems

Insects: Whitefly, Spider Mites

Diseases: Botrytis

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 for this crop. If Summer-planted, be sure to have plants well established before the start of short days.)

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

Unrooted cutting 13 - 15 weeks

Rooted cutting 8 - 10 weeks

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

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.

