

Ipomoea Solar Power

(*Ipomoea batatas*)

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 immediately upon arrival.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73°F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moderately wet, but never saturated.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop.
- As the rooted cuttings develop, high light and moderate air temperatures should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGRs).
- Ipomoea rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 28 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium.
- Maintain a media pH of 5.8 to 6.2.

Temperature

- **Nights:** 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)
- **Days:** 70 to 75°F (21 to 24°C)
- Avoid excessively cool temperatures, as this can impede quality growth.

Light

- Keep light intensities at 6,000 to 10,000 f.c. (60,000 to 100,000 Lux).
- Ipomoea are tolerant of a range of light levels. SolarPower will retain good coloration, even in high light levels.

Watering

- SolarPower is very tolerant of a range of moisture levels. Keeping soil evenly moist with some drying between irrigation will give the most consistent quality growth.
- When plants are young, allow the media to dry slightly between waterings.

Fertilizer

- Use constant feed with a balanced fertilizer at 175 to 225 ppm N.
- A full complement of minor elements should be provided at each fertilizer application.
- Controlled-release fertilizer can be used to supplement a liquid feed program.

Pinching

- Pinching will improve overall branching and habit of the finished product.
- Pinch plants back 7 to 10 days after transplanting to improve basal branching.

Controlling Growth

- In general Ipomoea require little to no plant growth regulators.
- If additional control is needed, one can apply B-Nine at rates between 1,500-3,000 ppm.

Common Problems

Insects: Spider Mites, Japanese beetle, Aphids

Diseases: Pseudomonas

All Ipomoea SolarPower cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the Ball Certified Plants® program.

Problem: Chlorosis

Causes: Low fertilization; lack of nitrogen, high pH

Problem: Stretched soft growth

Causes: Low light with excessive fertility and moisture

SolarPower Crop Schedule & Uses (Crop Schedule In Weeks)

Unrooted cuttings

4-in. (10-cm) Pots 1 PP* 7-9 weeks

6-in. (15-cm) Pots 1 to 2 PP* 8-10 weeks

10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) Pots, 4 to 5 PP* 11-14 weeks

Rooted cuttings

4-in. (10-cm) Pots 1 PP* 4-5 weeks

6-in. (15-cm) Pots 1 to 2 PP* 5-6 weeks

10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) Pots, 4 to 5 PP* 8-10 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. 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.

