

## Thunbergia Sunny

(*Thunbergia alata*)

A Ball FloraPlant Product

### 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.
- **Sunny** Thunbergia will be shipped as internodal cuttings with 1 set (2 leaves) of expanding leaves.
- Stick cuttings immediately upon arrival. Thunbergia cuttings are prone to breakdown and dehydration if stored even an additional 12 hrs.
- Rooting hormone is not recommended.
- Soil temperature must be maintained at 68 to 73°F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- Mist should be applied for 24 hours per day for 3 to 5 days, depending on local conditions. Frequency and run time should be reduced during the dark period, but unrooted cuttings must not become dehydrated.
- Plants should be sprayed after sticking with a surfactant, using labeled rates, to help re-hydration and reduce the tendency to wilt. This will greatly reduce stress on the cuttings and speed rooting. A second application can be made the following morning if needed.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop. Avoid phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen during the rooting process to reduce stretch and unwanted vegetative growth.
- **Sunny** Thunbergia do not require pinching during propagation. However, to improve branching and habit, plants can be pinched 7 to 10 days before transplanting.
- **Sunny** Thunbergia rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 28 to 35 days after sticking and should be transplanted as soon as possible. Rooted cuttings should not be held, as **Sunny** Thunbergia will be actively growing and plants will begin to crowd and stretch very quickly.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Scheduling

**Sunny** Thunbergia requires relatively high light levels and warm night temperatures. In areas with low light levels in early Spring, Thunbergia is best planted as a mid to late Spring and Summer crop.

#### Media

Use a light, well-drained soilless medium with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.

### Temperature

- Nights: 59 to 64°F (15 to 18°C)
- Days: 71 to 79°F (21 to 26°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly and reduce flowering.

### Light

- The ideal range would be 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Light levels below 5,000 f.c. (50,000 Lux) will cause stem stretch and limit flowering.

### Watering

- Allow the media to dry moderately between waterings.
- To prevent leaf burn, do not allow the media to dry completely or the plant to wilt repeatedly.

### Fertilizer

- Maintain constant fertilization at 175 to 225 ppm N.
- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will cause unwanted vegetative growth. Both should be provided in very limited quantities.
- If new growth is chlorotic, add chelated iron to the feed.
- Slow-release fertilizer can be incorporated at a moderate rate to supplement a liquid program.

### Pinching

Depending on pot size, **Sunny** Thunbergia should be pinched 7 to 10 days after transplanting. Larger pot sizes will require an additional 1 to 2 pinches to produce a well-branched, full plant.

### Controlling Growth

- Height should be controlled entirely by maintaining recommended soil fertility, allowing the media to dry slightly between watering, providing maximum light levels and spacing plants in advance of crowding and stretch
- Chemical plant growth regulators have shown no benefits.

### Common Problems

**Insects:** Aphids, whitefly, spider mites, leafminer

**Diseases:** Rhizoctonia, Pythium

All **Sunny** Thunbergia cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

**Problem:** Plant collapse

**Causes:** Wet media for an extended period of time (Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Botrytis)

**Problem:** Excessive vegetative growth

**Causes:** High ammonia in media  
Over-fertilization under low light; Over-watering under low light conditions; Excessive phosphorous; Low night temperatures

**Problem:** Poor flowering

**Causes:** Low greenhouse temperatures; Low light conditions; Short days

**Problem:** Stretched plants

**Causes:** Low light conditions; Crowding before spacing

### **Sunny Thunbergia Crop Schedule & Uses**

#### **Unrooted cuttings:**

4.5–5-In. (11–13-Cm) Pots 1 PP\* 10 - 11 weeks  
6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 2–3 PP\* 11 - 12 weeks  
10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP\* 12 - 14 weeks

#### **Rooted cuttings:**

4.5–5-In. (11–13-Cm) Pots 1 PP\* 6 - 8 weeks  
6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 2–3 PP\* 7 - 9 weeks  
10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP\* 10 - 12 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.

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