

Veronica Venice

(*Veronica austriaca*)

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 500 ppm IBA may be applied to promote early, uniform rooting; however, this is not typically necessary.
- Veronica root well under moderate mist regimes. You should see root development in 10 to 12 days.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N when roots become visible.
- During root development, maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media.
- Recommended pinch after roots are established. Be sure to leave 4 or 5 active internodes.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 28 to 35 days after sticking.
- Roots quickly. Should plan to pinch in the liner tray.

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:** 40 to 45°F (5 to 8°C)
- **Days:** 55 to 60°F (13 to 16°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- Requires vernalization to flower. We recommend 8 weeks of night temperatures below 45°F (8°C) for proper flowering.

Light

Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 5,000 to 8,000 f.c.

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

Pinching

Pinch as soon as the plants are well rooted. 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: Aphids

Diseases: Veronica are relatively disease-free.

Key Tip

Veronica Venice Blue will finish with the ideal plant habit when grown outdoors.

Crop Schedule & Uses

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

Unrooted cutting Stick by Week 35 (North), Week 40 (South)

Rooted cutting Plant by Week 40 (North), Week 45 (South)

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

Unrooted cutting Stick by Week 30 (North), Week 35 (South)

Rooted cutting Plant by Week 35 (North), Week 40 (South)

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

Unrooted cutting Stick by Week 28 (North), Week 32 (South)

Rooted cutting Plant by Week 32 (North), Week 37 (South)

*PPP: Plants per pot or basket