GrowerFacts

Petunia Debonair™

(*Petunia x hybrida*)

Germination

Media
Use a well-drained, disease-free seedling medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.0 and EC about 0.75 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

Sowing
Covering seed is not recommended. Water adequately after sowing to completely dissolve the pellet.

Stage 1 - Germination takes approximately 4 days.

Soil temperature: 72 to 76°F (22 to 24°C)

Light: Lighting is optional.

Moisture: Keep soil very wet (level 5) during Stage 1 for optimal germination.

Humidity: Maintain 100% relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

Plug Production

Media
Use a well-drained, disease-free seedling medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.0 and EC about 0.75 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

Sowing
Covering seed is not recommended. Water adequately after sowing to completely dissolve the pellet.

Stage 1 - Germination takes approximately 4 days.

Soil temperature: 72 to 76°F (22 to 24°C)

Light: Lighting is optional.

Moisture: Keep soil very wet (level 5) during Stage 1 for optimal germination.

Humidity: Maintain 100% relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

Stage 2
Soil temperature: 68 to 75°F (20 to 24°C)

Light: Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

Moisture: Start to slightly reduce soil moisture (level 4) to allow roots to penetrate into the media.

Fertilizer: Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (less than 100 ppm N/less than 0.7 mS/cm EC) from nitrate-form fertilizers with low phosphorous.

Stage 3
Soil temperature: 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)

Light: Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

Moisture: Allow media to further dry until the surface becomes light brown (level 2) before watering. Keep the moisture to wet-dry cycle (moisture level 4 to 2).

Fertilizer: Increase fertilizer to rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC). If growth is slow, apply a balanced ammonium and nitrate-form fertilizer with every other fertilization. Maintain medium pH 5.8 to 6.2 and EC between 1.0 and 1.5 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

Growth Regulators: Control plug growth first by environment, nutrition and irrigation management, then with chemical plant growth regulators if needed. Minimize ammonium-form nitrogen fertilizer to avoid seedling elongation. Temperature differential (DIF) can also be used to minimize height. Test all chemical plant regulators first.

In North American conditions: Apply B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) 1 to 2 applications at 5,000 ppm (6.0 g/l, 85% formulation or 7.8 g/l, 64% formulation) as a spray. The first application should be made when plugs have 2 to 3 true leaves. A second application can be made 7 days later. This treatment can improve basal branching of mature plants.

In Northern European conditions: 1 to 3 applications of B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) at 1,250 ppm (1.5 g/l, 85% formulation or 2.0 g/l, 64% formulation) spray has been tested and shown effective if needed.

Stage 4
Soil temperature: 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

Light: Up to 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

Moisture: Same as Stage 3.

Fertilizer: Same as Stage 3.

Growing On to Finish

Container Size
4 to 5-in. (10 to 13-cm) pots: 1 plant per pot

6-in. (15-cm) pots: 1 to 3 plants per pot

10-in. (25-cm) baskets: 3 to 4 plants per basket

Media
Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

Temperature
Nights: 57 to 65°F (14 to 18°C)

Days: 61 to 75°F (16 to 24°C)

Debonair can tolerate temperatures as low as 35°F (2° C); however, keep in mind that crop timing (time to flower) is related to daily average temperature when grown under proper daylength. Debonair plants will take longer to flower when grown in cooler conditions.

Note: Black Cherry may get some yellow color breaks under cold temperature at about 35°F (2°C)

Light
Keep light levels as high as possible while maintaining moderate temperatures.

Fertilizer
Apply nitrate-form with low phosphorus fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N [1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm EC]) every other irrigation. Apply a balanced ammonium and nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorus as needed to encourage growth and balance medium pH. Maintain medium pH 5.8 to 6.2.

For a constant fertilizer program, apply fertilizer at rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N or 0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC) while maintaining the above recommended EC and pH ranges.

Growth Regulators
Use B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) at 5,000 ppm (5.9 g/l, 85% formulation or 7.8 g/l, 64% formulation) for weekly application starting at 7 days after transplant, or just use the same PGR as that for multiflora petunias, such as Carpet or Mirage.

Caution: Avoid using B-Nine for Debonair Black Cherry as B-Nine could cause Black Cherry some yellow color breaks or wash out black color a little bit to become more cherry tone. Instead of B-Nine, Bonzi 2 to 3 ppm drench or Topflor 1 to 2 ppm at 10 days after transplant can be used.
To determine the best rate for your conditions, we recommend that you run an in-house trial.

Photoperiod
All Debonair varieties can flower successfully at 10-hour daylengths. Debonair Dusty Rose will be slightly earlier than Debonair Lime Green in short-day conditions.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (288-cell plug): 5 to 6 weeks

Transplant to flower: 5 to 7 weeks

Total Crop Time:
Container Size: 4-in. (10-cm) pot

Number of Plants: 1 plant per pot

Spring: 10 to 12 weeks

Summer: 8 to 10 weeks

Container Size: 6-in. (15-cm) pot

Number of Plants: 1 to 3 plants per pot

Spring: 10 to 12 weeks

Summer: 8 to 10 weeks

Container Size: 10-in. (25-cm) basket

Number of Plants: 3 to 4 plants per basket

Spring: 10 to 13 weeks

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Summer: 8 to 11 weeks

Common Problems
No major problems will occur if good cultural and IPM practices are used.

Garden Information

- The unique colors of Debonair are excellent for mono and mixed containers, baskets.
- Plant in full sun.
- Reaches 10 to 15 in. (25 to 38 cm) tall and spreads 10 to 12 in. (25 to 30 cm)

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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