

Dichondra Silver Falls

(*Dichondra argentea*)

Germination

- Rounded, fan-shaped silver foliage on silver stems – each small leaf is 0.75 to 1 in. (2 to 3 cm) wide and 0.5 to 0.75 in. (1 to 2 cm) long.
- Vigorous growth displays a true cascading habit – grows 3 to 4 ft. (0.9 to 1.2 m) long; 4 to 6 ft. (1.2 to 1.8 m) in areas with a longer growing season.
- Excellent for mixed containers and as a single hanging basket item.
- Also works as a low-growing (2 to 3-in./5 to 7-cm) groundcover, but requires well-drained soil due to the ground-hugging habit.
- Branches well without pinching.
- Very heat and drought-tolerant; recovers quickly if wilted.
- 85% germination standard.

Approximate seed count: 6,070 S./oz. 214 S./g

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.3 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm with a 1:2 extraction).

Sowing

Cover the seed lightly with coarse vermiculite.

Temperature

Germination: 72 to 76°F (22 to 24°C)

Cotyledon stage: 65 to 72°F (18 to 22°C)

True leaves: 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)

Hold plugs: 62 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

Light

Stage one: Not required.

Plug Production

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After germination: 1,000 to 2,500 f.c. (10,000 to 30,000 Lux).

Seedling maturity: Up to 5,000 f.c. (54,000 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

Humidity

Maintain 95% relative humidity until cotyledons emerge.

Soil Moisture

Keep soil moisture high until radicle emergence, then reduce moisture levels after the radicle penetrates the medium. Plug development is faster with drier plug culture. Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

Fertilizer

At radicle emergence, apply 50 to 75 ppm N from 15-0-15. As cotyledons expand, increase to 100 to 150 ppm N.

Growth Regulators

Spray B-Nine at 2,500 ppm one week before transplant to promote branches.

Growing On to Finish

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.5 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

Temperature

Nights: 62 to 65°F (16° to 18°C)
Days: 65 to 75°F (18° to 24°C)

Light

Higher light levels result in foliage that is more silver in color and shorter internodes.

Irrigation

Silver Falls dichondra benefits from warm, dry growing conditions. Let crop dry out well in between irrigations.

Fertilizer

Feed weekly with 200 ppm N in complete fertilizer.

Growth Regulators

For pot production, a tank mix of 5,000 ppm B-Nine and 1,000 ppm Cycocel one week after transplant can be used to increase branching, control stem length and prevent plants from becoming tangled. This treatment also makes the foliage more silver.

Pinching

Pinching is not needed

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (288-cell plug tray): 6-7 weeks

Transplant to saleable 4-in. (10-cm) pot: 7 to 8 weeks

Container Size: 4 to 4.5-in. (10 to 11-cm) pot

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 1

Weeks From Transplant: 6 to 7

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

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 3

Weeks From Transplant: 7 to 8

Container Size: 12-in. (30-cm) hanging basket

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 3

Weeks From Transplant: 8 to 9

Container Size: 12-in. (30-cm) hanging basket

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 4

Weeks From Transplant: 7 to 8

Container Size: 12-in. (30-cm) hanging basket

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 5

Weeks From Transplant: 6 to 7

Common Problems

Insects: No serious problems.

Diseases: No serious problems.

Green Thumb Tips

Plant in full sun to part shade. Use **Silver Falls** dichondra as a cascading plant in mixed containers or in hanging baskets. Requires well-drained soil if planted in the garden. Excellent as a cascading plant in raised beds and at the edge of rock walls.

