

Euphorbia Breathless™

(*Euphorbia hypericifolia*)

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.
- Stick cuttings immediately upon arrival. Euphorbia cuttings are prone to breakdown if stored even an additional 12 hours.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73°F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop.
- Reduce mist as soon as possible. Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moist and never saturated. Excess water in propagation will encourage unwanted plant stretch and leaf loss.
- Appropriate water management, air and light levels should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGRs).
- A pinch in propagation will help to encourage early branching. Pinch 1 week before transplant.
- Breathless Euphorbia should be ready for transplant 3 to 4 weeks after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum.
- Breathless Euphorbia prefer a well-drained soil.

Temperature

Nights: 60 to 67° (15 to 19°C)

Days: 65 to 76°F (18 to 24°C)

Light

Breathless Euphorbia should be grown under high light levels; 6,000 to 9,000 f.c. (60,000 to 90,000 Lux) is the ideal range.

Foliage colors will be more pronounced under high light levels.

Watering

The medium should be allowed to dry between waterings. However, periods of sustained wilting should be avoided. Excess water will result in unwanted stretch and leaf loss.

Fertilizer

- Breathless Euphorbia have a moderate feed requirement.
- Use a constant liquid feed program of 175 to 225 ppm.
- Regular leaching with clear water will help to reduce buildup of excess salts in media.

Pinching

- If no pinch was performed in propagation, Breathless Euphorbia should be pinched at transplant to encourage basal branching. Additional pinching is optional.
- A 4-in. (10-cm) crop can be produced without a pinch in finish production provided it received a pinch in propagation or at transplant.
- Plants in 10-in. (25-cm) or larger pots may require a shearing to shape.

Controlling Growth

- Maintain recommended temperatures and light levels to avoid stretch.
- Excessive moisture in media will encourage unwanted stretch. Water management is an excellent tool to use to produce high-quality Breathless Euphorbia.
- Chemical plant growth regulators are generally not needed.
- Use a B-Nine (spray) 2,500 ppm, Cycocel (spray) 750 ppm tank mix 7 to 10 days after transplant.
- Do not use Florel.
- 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: Whitefly, spider mites.

All Breathless Euphorbia cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the Ball Certified Plants® Program

Problem: Plant collapse

Causes: Stem canker (Botrytis); Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (Pythium)

Problem: Poor branching and thin plants

Causes: Low fertilization during early stages of growth; low light

Problem: Yellowing foliage

Causes: Euphorbia can be cold sensitive if not acclimated and lower leaves may yellow especially when there is excessive moisture at low temperatures. Yellowing will also occur when treated with Florel.

Crop Schedule and Uses:

Unrooted Cuttings:

4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1 PP*: 8-11 weeks
6 to 8-In. (15 to 20-Cm) Pots 1 to 3 PP*: 9-13 weeks
10 to 12-In. (25 to 30-Cm) Pots 3 to 5 PP*: 12-15 weeks

Rooted Cuttings:

4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1 PP*: 5-7 weeks
6 to 8-In. (15 to 20-Cm) Pots 1 to 3 PP*: 6-9 weeks
10 to 12-In. (25 to 30-Cm) Pots 3 to 5 PP*: 9-11 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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