GrowerFacts

Lobelia Hot Springs

(*Lobelia hybrida*)

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 within 12 to 24 hours of arrival. Cuttings can be stored overnight, if necessary, at 45 to 50?F (7 to 10?C).
- A rooting hormone can be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73?F (20 to 23?C) until roots are visible.
- To encourage branching and reduce stem stretch, Hot Springs Lobelia should be propagated under as high a light as possible while avoiding unnecessary stress on the cuttings.
- 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.
- As the rooted cuttings develop, high light, appropriate water stress and moderate air temperatures should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGRs).
- Hot Springs Lobelia can be pinched 18 to 24 days after sticking, when roots are well developed, to promote early branching and improve habit.
- Hot Springs Lobelia rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 24 to 28 days after sticking and should be transplanted as soon as possible. Rooted cuttings should not be held, as Hot Springs Lobelia will be actively growing and plants will begin to stretch very quickly.

Growing On to Finish

- Use a media with good aeration, drainage and water-holding capacity.
- A pH of 5.6 to 6.2 with a moderate starter charge is optimal.

Temperature

Nights: 56 to 64°F (13 to 18°C)

Days: 71 to 79°F (21 to 26°C)

Light

- Plants grow best at 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Flowering of Hot Springs Lobelia is almost independent of daylength. This variety will flower well early Spring through Fall.

Watering

- Keep media moderately moist.
- Avoid water stress, as it will cause leaf edge burn.

Fertilizer

- Hot Springs Lobelia has a moderate fertilizer requirement.
- Maintain constant fertilization at 175 to 250 ppm N.
- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will promote 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

Pinch plants 10 to 14 days after transplanting, as needed, to improve basal branching. A 4-in. (10-cm) crop can be produced with no pinch if necessary.

Controlling Growth

Hot Springs Lobelia does not require growth regulators.

Common Problems

Insects: Spider mites, thrips.

Diseases: Botrytis, Pythium.

All Hot Springs Lobelia cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

Problem: Plants collapse

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

Problem: Excessive vegetative growth, lack of flowers

Causes: Excessive nitrogen balance in fertilizer; Over-fertilization under low light conditions

Problem: Foliage necrosis, leaf spot

Causes: Low light and overwatering; wet media; Drying out between waterings; High soluble salts level

Problem: Poor branching, thin plants

Causes: Low fertilization in early stages of crop; Inadequate pinching or shearing

WaterfallHot Springs Lobelia Crop Schedule & Uses
(Crop Schedule In Weeks)

Unrooted cuttings

4-in. (10-cm) Pots 1 PP* 10-13 weeks

6-in. (15-cm) Pots 2 PP* 12-14 weeks

10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) Pots 4 to 5 PP* 13-15 weeks

Rooted cuttings

4-in. (10-cm) Pots 1 PP* 7-9 weeks

6-in. (15-cm) Pots 2 PP* 9-11 weeks

10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) Pots 4 to 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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Ball Horticultural Company
622 Town Road, West Chicago, Illinois, USA, 60185-2698
630 879-BALL www.ballseed.com