

Purslane Vegetative Rio

(*Portulaca oleracea*)

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. Portulaca 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.
- Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moderately wet and never saturated. This will help avoid stem rots, which can develop quickly when Portulaca is over-watered.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop.
- As the rooted cuttings develop, high light and moderate air temperatures should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGR).
- **Rio** Purslane does not require pinching during propagation. However, to improve branching and habit, plants can be pinched 7 to 10 days before transplanting.
- **Rio** Purslane rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 25 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.

Temperature

- Nights: 62 to 67°F (17 to 19°C)
- Days: 71 to 79°F (21 to 26°C)

Light

- Keep light intensities above 5,000 f.c. (50,000 Lux).
- Low light levels promote stem stretch and poor flowering.

Water

- During the first 10 to 14 days, water media sparingly and never saturate. Allow media to dry somewhat between waterings.
- Avoid extended periods where the media is saturated, as this will cause root system problems.

Fertilizer

- **Rio** Purslane have moderate to heavy fertilizer requirements to keep the plants growing vigorously. Reducing the feed causes the plant to become woody, foliage quality to deteriorate and a reduction in flowering.
- Use a balanced fertilizer at 225 to 300 ppm N every watering to ensure maximum growth and flowering.
- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will promote unwanted vegetative growth. Both should be provided in very limited quantities.
- Controlled-release fertilizer can be used to supplement a liquid feed program.
- Leach pots periodically with clear water to avoid build-up of salts.

Pinching

- **Rio** Purslane should be pinched 7 to 10 days after transplanting. When pinched, plants should be actively growing with roots at or near the edge of the pot. Depending on pot size and local conditions, **Rio** Purslane should be pinched 1 to 3 times.
- Plants can be sheared 1 to 2 times as needed if the crop must be held.
- Florel promotes branching of Portulaca. No Florel should be applied within 8 weeks of sale. A range of 300 to 400 ppm, applied 1 to 2 times, should be used as a guideline. Florel must be applied to plants that are under no stress (water, temperature, etc.).

Controlling Growth

- Use high light, pinching and proper spacing to control the habit of **Rio** Purslane.
- Plant growth regulators are generally not needed.

Common Problems

Insects: Aphids, whitefly

Diseases: Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Pythium

All **Rio** Purslane cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

Problem: Plant collapse

Causes: Wet media for an extended period (Pythium, Phytophthora)

Problem: Excess vegetative growth

Causes: High ammonia concentration in the soil;
Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light
and over-watering; wet media

Problem: Poor branching

Causes: Low fertilization during early stages

Problem: Foliage necrosis

Causes: Severe drying of the plant between
irrigations; High soluble salts in the soil

Problem: Foliage chlorosis

Causes: Low temperatures; Low nitrogen levels

Río Purslane Crop Schedule & Uses

Unrooted cuttings:

4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1–2 PP* 8 - 9 weeks

6-In. (15-Cm) Pot 1–3 PP* 9 - 11 weeks

10-In. (25-Cm) Hanging Basket 3–5 PP* 12 - 15 weeks

12-In. (30-Cm) Hanging Basket 4–6 PP* 13 - 16 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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