

PENTAS TIPS AND TRICKS IN YOUNG PLANT PRODUCTION

Germination

Germination temperature 22-24 °C, it is a warm loving crop. Light is required for germination, no covering of the seeds.

Keep Relative Humidity high (approx. 90%) and at constant level until cotyledons are unfolded. A small drop in RH will result in uneven germination and development.

Uneven size and development of cotyledons might be a signal of too low RH in the early stages. Putting them in the greenhouse under a VPD controlled Fog system will help to eliminate the germ problems.

Growing on

Pentas is a pH suppressor, so **keep pH > 6,0 in irrigation water** and use a pH stabilized substrate.

Give extra Phosphorous, directly after germination chamber or when cotyledons start to unfold, will result in a more uniform development of the seedlings. Fertilize in the first 7 days with 9-45-15 (25 ppm N) or a similar fertilizer to give an extra P shot. When the first 2 true leaves are developed, reduce P to avoid too much stretching. Use low NH₄ fertilizer.

Uneven development of first true leaves is the result of too low P fertilizing in early stage 2.

Keep the greenhouse temperature between 20-22 °C.

Uneven development of young plants in the tray, is most likely the result of the watering strategy. Too wet will result in smaller plants and more likely result in pH problems or low P levels.

Sorting

Uneven growth of your seedlings in stage 3, can only be solved by grading your plugs (3 sizes).

Genetics

Pentas Luck Star Dark Red is most sensitive color in the series for leaf problems