

## Gypsophila Pixie Splash

(*Gypsophila cerastioides*)

### Germination

Approximate seed count (tuned): 59,500 to 68,000 S./oz. (2,100 to 2,400 S./g)

#### Key flowering facts:

- Perennial
- Photoperiod response: day-neutral plant.
- Vernalization: requires about 8 weeks of cold treatment below 39°F (4°C)
- Flower timing: early Spring

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.5 and an EC of 0.6 mmhos/cm.

#### Sowing

Sow 4 seeds (Tuned seeds preferred) per cell in a 288 tray. Do not cover the seeds. Spray preventively against fungi after sowing.

Germination takes 3 to 4 days

**Soil temperature:** 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

**Light:** Light is required for germination.

**Moisture:** Keep soil moist (level 4) in Stage 1.

**Humidity:** Maintain 95 to 97% relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

### Plug Production

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.5 and an EC of 0.6 mmhos/cm.

#### Sowing

Sow 4 seeds (Tuned seeds preferred) per cell in a 288 tray. Do not cover the seeds. Spray preventively against fungi after sowing.

**Stage 1** – Germination takes 3 to 4 days

**Soil temperature:** 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

**Light:** Light is required for germination.

**Moisture:** Keep soil moist (level 4) in Stage 1.

**Humidity:** Maintain 95 to 97% relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

#### Stage 2

**Soil temperature:** 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

**Light:** Can be up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux).

**Moisture:** Reduce media moisture slightly (level 3 to 4) to allow the roots to penetrate into the media.

**Fertilizer:** Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (less than 100 ppm N; less than 0.7 mmhos/cm EC).

#### Stage 3

**Soil temperature:** 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

**Light:** Can be up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux).

**Moisture:** Allow media to dry further until the surface becomes light brown (level 2) before watering. Do not allow seedlings to wilt.

**Fertilizer:** Apply fertilizer at rate 2 to 3 (150 to 200 ppm N/1.0 to 1.3 mmhos/cm EC).

**Growth Regulators:** Not needed.

#### Stage 4

**Soil temperature:** 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

**Light:** Can be up to 5,000 f.c. (54,000 Lux).

**Moisture:** Same as Stage 3.

**Fertilizer:** Apply fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N; 1.2 to 1.5 mmhos/cm EC).

### Growing On to Finish

#### Container Size

3 to 5-in. (3 to 13-cm) pots: 1 plug per pot

#### Vernalization

Vernalization is required for flower induction; approximately 8 weeks with a temperature below 39°F

(4°C).

#### **Media**

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.5 and an EC of 0.75 mmhos/cm.

#### **Temperature (optimum)**

**Nights:** 50 to 58°F (10 to 14°C)

**Days:** 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

Leaves may become purplish when grown at temperatures below 46°F (8°C).

#### **Light**

Keep light as high as possible while maintaining moderate temperatures.

#### **Photoperiod**

Pixie Splash Gypsophila is a day-neutral plant.

#### **Irrigation**

Keep media dry (level 2; substrate color is light brown) to medium moist (level 3; substrate color is brown to dark brown).

#### **Fertilizer**

Moderate feeder at fertilizer rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N; 0.7 to 1.2 mmhos/cm EC). When plants start regrowing after Winter, it is advised to add 1 or 2 extra applications of Nitrate fertilizer in a well-balanced mix including micro-elements.

#### **Growth Regulators**

Not needed.

#### **Pinching**

Not needed.

#### **Spacing**

Space plants when foliage is touching (10 in./25 cm).

#### **Crop Scheduling**

**Sow to transplant (288 cell plug):** 5 to 6 weeks

#### **Transplant to flower:**

**Overwintered outside:** 36 to 40 weeks (under Northern European circumstances)

#### **Normal production:**

Sowing early July until early August will give natural flowering from later April to May the following year (under Northern European conditions).

#### **Common Problems**

**Insects:** Aphids, Spider mites, Whitefly

**Disease:** Botrytis

#### **Garden and Landscape information**

• Early Spring, semi-evergreen perennial is long-lasting and has a flowering period of approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

• USDA Hardiness Zones: 4 to 7

**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.

