

Heuchera Melting Fire

(*Heuchera x hybrida*)

Germination

Approximate seed count:
24,000 – 28,000 Sds/gr. (raw); 1000 – 1100 Sds/gr.
(Peletted)
For seeds/ounce: 1 gram is 0.035 ounce.

Key Flowering Facts

- The attractive color and texture of the foliage lasts all season long.
- Easy growing and uniform plant quality.
- Seed alternative for tissue culture varieties.

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.6 to 6.2 and an EC of 0.75 mmhos/cm.

Sowing

Sow 8 seeds for Melting Fire and 6 to 8 seeds for Malachite per cell in 288 or larger plug tray. Do not cover the seed. Spray after sowing to prevent fungi.

Germination takes 10 to 14 days for

Soil temperature: 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°C)

Light: Requires light to germinate.

Moisture: Keep soil medium moist to medium wet (level 3-4) 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 5.6 to 6.2 and an EC of 0.75 mmhos/cm.

Sowing

Sow 8 seeds for Melting Fire and 6 to 8 seeds for Malachite per cell in 288 or larger plug tray. Do not cover the seed. Spray after sowing to prevent fungi.

Stage 1 – Germination takes 10 to 14 days

Soil temperature: 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°C)

Light: Requires light to germinate.

Moisture: Keep soil medium moist to medium wet (level 3-4) in Stage 1.

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

Stage 2

Soil temperature: 65 to 68°F (18 to 20°C)

Light: Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

Moisture: Reduce media moisture slightly to medium moist (level 3) to allow the roots to penetrate into the media. Don't let the media dry out.

Humidity: Maintain 75 to 80% relative humidity (RH).

Fertilizer: None.

Stage 3

Soil temperature: 63 to 65°F (17 to 18°C)

Light: Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

Moisture: Reduce media moisture slightly to medium dry to medium moist (level 2-3). Avoid both excessive watering and drought.

Fertilizer: Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (between 40 to 60 ppm N with an EC of 0.3 to 0.4 mmhos/cm) from nitrate-form fertilizers. Keep a low soluble salt level in plug stage.

Growth Regulators: Not needed.

Stage 4

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

Light: Up to 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

Moisture: Same as Stage 3.

Fertilizer: Maintain fertilizer at rate 1 but increase slightly (75 to 100 ppm Nitrate fertilizer/0.5-0.7 mmhos/cm EC) from nitrate-form fertilizers.

Growing On to Finish

Container Size

4 to 5 in. (10.5 to 13cm) or square/quart pots: 1 plug per pot

Gallon (18 cm): 3 plugs per pot

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge of EC 0.8 mmhos/cm.

Vernalization: Not needed.

Optimum Temperature

Nights: 58 to 60°F (14 to 16°C)

Days: 60 to 68°F (16 to 20°C)

Light

No additional light is required.

Photoperiod

No direct influence as Heuchera's attractiveness is leaf color and texture of the foliage and therefore sold for its ornamental foliage.

Irrigation

Keep media constantly medium dry to medium moist (level 2 to 3).
Avoid both excessive watering and drought.

Fertilizer

Apply fertilizer at rate 1 to 2 (75 to 100 ppm Nitrate form fertilizer/0.7 to 0.9 mmhos/cm EC) or 150 ppm as needed. Maintain media pH 5.8 to 6.2 and EC 1.2 to 1.4 mmhos/cm.

Growth Regulators

Not needed.

Pinching

Not needed.

Spacing:

Space plants when foliage is touching.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (288 cell plug): 8 to 10 weeks

Transplant to finished product:

Annual:

4 in./10.5 cm pot 12 to 14 weeks

5 in./13 cm pot 14 to 16 weeks

Gallon/17 cm pot 14 to 16 weeks

Overwintered: 32 to 36 weeks

Total crop time:

Annual:

4 in./10.5 cm pot 20 to 24 weeks

5 in./13 cm pot 22 to 26 weeks

Gallon/17 cm pot 22 to 26 weeks

Overwintered: 38 to 42 weeks

Production: Sow beginning to middle of January for a finished product middle of May to end of June under Northwest European circumstances.

Common Problems

Insect: Leaf Nematodes

Disease: Powdery Mildew, Botrytis, Leafspot, Rust, Root Rot

Garden and Landscape Information

• Heuchera is a first-year-finish perennial to USDA Hardiness Zone 4 to 6.

• Space plants at 10 to 12 in. (25 to 30 cm) apart in well-drained soil.

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.

