

Saxifraga Rocco Red

(*Saxifraga x arendsii*)

Germination

Approximate seed count (pelleted): 392,000 to 492,000 S./oz. (1,400 to 1,600 S./g)

Key flowering facts:

- USDA Hardiness Zone: 4 to 7
- Photoperiod response: day-neutral plant
- Vernalization: Required; duration about 12 weeks at 41°F (5°C)

Media

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

Sowing

Sow 2 seeds per cell in 288 plug trays. Cover the seeds lightly with vermiculite. Spray preventively fungicide against damping off.

Stage 1 – Germination takes 7 to 11 days.

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

Light: Light is optional.

Moisture: Keep soil wet (level 4) during Stage 1.

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

Plug Production

Stage 2

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

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

Moisture: Reduce soil 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) from nitrate-form fertilizers with low phosphorous.

Stage 3

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

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

Moisture: Retain soil moisture at level 3 to 4.

Fertilizer: Increase fertilizer to rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N; 0.7 to 1.2 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: Same as Stage 3.

Growing On to Finish

Container Size

3.5 to 5-in. (10 to 13-cm): 1 plug per pot

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and an EC of 1.0 to 1.2 mmhos/cm.

Vernalization :

Required about 12 weeks at 41°F (5°C). Plants should be bulked for about 8 to 10 weeks before receiving a cold treatment.

Temperature (optimum)

Nights: 40 to 50°F (4 to 10°C)

Days: 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

Light

Low light (in combination with higher temperatures) will result in bleaching of flowers.

Photoperiod

Rocco Red is a day-neutral plant.

Irrigation

Grows best at medium dry to moderate irrigation (level 2 to 3). Irrigation strategy is to water thoroughly and allow plants to dry back to moderate moisture level.

Fertilizer

Rocco Red generally needs moderate fertilization. Apply fertilizer at rate 2 (145 to 175 ppm N; 1.0 to 1.2 mmhos/cm); pH level can be brought up between 5.8 and 6.2. Add micro nutrient to prevent Mg and Fe deficiency.

Growth Regulators

Not needed.

Pinching

Not needed.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (288 cell plug): 9 to 10 weeks

Transplant to flower: 28 to 38 weeks

Total crop time: 37 to 48 weeks

Common Problems

Insect: Spider mites

Disease: Botrytis

Garden and Landscape Information

- USDA Hardiness Zone: 4 to 7
- Deer and rabbit resistant
- Garden location: Full sun
- Finished height: 3 to 4.5 in./7 to 11 cm
- Finished spread: 3.5 to 5 in./9 to 13 cm
- Garden spacing: 6 to 8 in./15 to 20 cm

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.

