

## Dianthus Everlast

(*Dianthus interspecific*)

### Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.8 to 1.0 mmhos and a pH of 6.2 to 6.5.
- Stick cuttings the day of arrival if possible. Otherwise, store at 38°F (3°C) for not more than 24 hours before sticking.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 70°F (21°C) until cuttings are well-rooted. After planting the liner, keep temperature up until roots have developed nicely. Afterward, follow recommendations.
- Mist at low levels for 14 to 21 days on average.
- Begin fertilization with 125 to 150 ppm N after 21 days.
- During root development, maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid over-watering of young plants.
- Soft pinching once in the propagation tray at 28 to 35 days after sticking will promote a well-branched finished plant.
- Average propagation time is 5 to 6 weeks.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Media

- Use media with good aeration and drainage.
- Prefers a medium that is high in organic matter.
- A pH of 6.2 to 6.5 with an EC of 1.4 to 1.8 mmhos is optimum.

#### Temperature

- **Nights:** 50 to 55°F (10 to 13°C)
- **Days:** 60 to 75°F (18 to 21°C)
- The use of “Cool Morning” treatments will improve plant quality, flower and foliage color and plant habit, and will harden the plants.
- Lower the temperature by 8 to 12°F (4 to 6°C) 2 hours before sunrise until 2 to 3 hours after sunrise. Start treatments after plants are rooted in, well-branched and cover the media (reach the pot edges).
- To avoid delayed flowering, keep the average day temperature under a close watch and if necessary, increase night temperatures.
- Cool temperatures and high light levels will improve plant quality.

#### Light

- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 5,000 to 6,000 f.c. (50,000 to 60,000 Lux).

- EverLast Dianthus bloom early and stay in bloom, then rebloom as night temperatures drop in late Summer.

#### Watering

The media should be allowed to dry slightly between watering and never saturated. In general, avoid drying out or overwatering, as this will affect plant quality and finishing time.

#### Fertilizer

Use a well-balanced fertilizer at a rate of 100 to 150 ppm N with an EC of 1.4 to 1.8 mmhos.

#### Pinching

Fuller and larger plants can be achieved when pinched 3 to 4 weeks after transplant. Pinch when the bud is visible and side shoots start to develop.

#### Controlling Growth

- Early growth regulator treatments are not required. Sprays only should be used. Cover the plants and avoid run-off as much as possible. For vigorous products, first application should be done about 7 to 10 days after sticking. Plants will respond to B-Nine at 2,500 ppm spray, or Bonzi 2 to 5 ppm spray.
- Finishing of the crop depends on the average day temperature and positive or negative DIF methods.

#### Common Problems

**Insects:** Spider Mites

**Diseases:** Rust, Pythium, Fusarium

**Problem:** Plant collapse

**Causes:** Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time; (Pythium, Fusarium); Rooted cuttings transplanted too deeply

**Problem:** Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers

**Causes:** Excessive ammonium-based fertilizer; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light and over-watering; saturated media

**Problem:** Foliage necrosis

**Causes:** High soluble salts in media; Excessive water;  
Pesticide application

**Problem:** Poor branching and thin plants

**Causes:** Low fertilization during early stages of  
growth; Low light conditions

### **Crop Schedule & Uses**

(Crop Schedule in Weeks. Faster finish for late-Spring  
flowering. Longer finish for late-Winter flowering.)

#### **Unrooted cutting**

**4 to 5-in. (10 to 13-cm) pot 1 PPP\*: 14–20 weeks**

**6-in. (15-cm) pot2 PPP\*: 16–20 weeks**

**10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) pot 4 to 5 PPP\*: 16–22  
weeks**

#### **Rooted cutting**

**4 to 5-in. (10 to 13-cm) pot 1 PPP\*: 8–14 weeks**

**6-in. (15-cm) pot2 PPP\*: 10–16 weeks**

**10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) pot 4 to 5 PPP\*: 10–16  
weeks**

\*PPP: Plants per pot

