

Iberis Sempervirens

(*Iberis sempervirens*)

Propagation

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- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.80 to 1.0 mmhos and a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.
- Stick cuttings the day of arrival if possible. Otherwise, store at 45°F for not more than 18hr before sticking.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 70 to 72° F (21 to 24°C) until roots are visible.
- A rooting basal hormone application of 300-500ppm IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Mist at moderate levels for the first 24 hours to rehydrate cuttings. Avoid over-application of mist after this period. Iberis roots best under low mist regimes.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100ppm N starting day 10.
- During root development maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media.
- Pinching once in the propagation tray at 28 to 35 days after sticking will promote a well-branched finished plant.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 35 to 42 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

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Media

- Use media with good aeration and drainage.
- Prefers a medium that is high in organic matter.
- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum.

Temperature

- **Nights:** 40 to 45°F (5 to 7°C)
- **Days:** 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 50°F (10°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of warm temperatures.
- Vernalization is required to flower. 6 to 7 weeks of night temperatures below 50°F.

Light

- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Finish Iberis outside under full sun conditions for best quality.

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry slightly between watering and never saturated. However, plants should not be allowed to wilt at any time.
- Leach regularly to avoid the buildup of high soluble salt levels.

Fertilizer

Use a balanced fertilizer at a rate of 125 to 150 ppm. Periodic use of a calcium based fertilizer should help optimize the nutrient levels.

Pinching

Plants should be pinched once in the propagation tray and can be pinched a second time 1 to 2 weeks after transplant to create very full plants.

Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments.

Common Problems

Insects: None noted

Diseases: None noted

Problems Causes

Plant collapse Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (Pythium,)
Rooted cuttings transplanted too deeply

Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers

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

Yellowing of mature foliage Saturated media

Foliage necrosis

High soluble salts in media
Excessive water stress
Pesticide application

Poor branching and thin plants Low fertilization
during early stages of growth
Low light conditions

Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule in Weeks. Summer planting is recommended) be sure to allow time for bulking prior to start of vernalization. Plants should be at cover the pot stage no later than wk40 in north and 45 in south.

1 PPP* 1-qt. (10-cm) Pot

Unrooted cutting Stick week 30 to 35

Liner Plant week 36 to 41

1 PPP* 1-gal. (15-cm) Pot

Unrooted cutting Stick week 26 to 30

Liner Plant week 32 to 36

2 to 3-gal. (25 to 30-cm) Pot

Unrooted cutting Not recommended

Liner Not recommended

*PPP: Plants per pot

