

Iberis Amara

(*Iberis amara*)

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos and a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.
- Stick cuttings the day of arrival if possible. Otherwise, store at 45°F (7°C) for not more than 18 hours before sticking.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 70 to 72°F (21 to 24°C) until roots are visible.
- A rooting hormone should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Average days with mist: 12 to 14 days.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N when roots become visible.
- During root development, maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media.
- Should be pinched after roots have been established. Be sure to leave active internodes.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 4 to 5 weeks after sticking.

Key Tips

- Avoid over-misting.
- Pinch after 21 days.

Growing On to Finish

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: 45 to 55°F (7 to 13°C)
- Days: 55 to 65°F (13 to 18°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 55 to 65°F (13 to 18°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of temperatures.
- Vernalization is not required for flowering. Iberis White Heat will flower under any North American day length.

Light

Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 3,000 to 5,000 f.c. (30,000 to 50,000 Lux).

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry regularly 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

Should be pinched once in the finished container. Pinch as soon as the plants are well-rooted. Pinching will maximize branching and create a fuller plant.

Controlling Growth

- Will not require growth regulator treatments.
- Responsive to B-Nine/Cycocel at 1,500/800 ppm if needed.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

Key Tips

- High light finishing is best.
- Plants will bloom continuously or can be trimmed back for fresh flower flush.
- Tender perennial in the southern U.S. and Spring/Summer-flowering annual in the North.

Common Problems

Insects: Aphids. Has shown sensitivity to miticides such as Propargite (Omite) and Spiromesifen (Judo).

Diseases: Iberis are generally not sensitive to disease; however, they may experience root rot diseases under poor growing conditions.

Problem: Lower leaf drop

Causes: Stress caused by overwatering or underwatering

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: Yellowing of young foliage

Causes: Saturated media

Problem: Foliage necrosis

Causes: High soluble salts in media; Excessive water stress

Problem: Poor branching and thin plants

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

Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule in Weeks – Spring planting is recommended for this crop when grown in the North. Growers in climate zone 7 or warmer should plant no later than Week 45 for best results.)

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

Unrooted cutting 10 - 14 weeks

Rooted cutting 8 - 10 weeks

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

Unrooted cutting 16 - 18 weeks

Rooted cutting 10 - 12 weeks

3 PPP* 2 to 3-gal. (25 to 30-cm) pot

Unrooted cutting 19 - 22 weeks

Rooted cutting 12 - 14 weeks

*PPP: Plants per pot or basket

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.

