GrowerFacts

Lantana Lucky

(*Lantana camara*)

A Ball FloraPlant Product

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 immediately upon arrival. Lantana cuttings are prone to breakdown if stored even an additional 12 hours.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73° F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- A protective fungicide application should be made immediately after sticking.
- Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moderately wet and never saturated. This will prevent iron deficiency and the associated chlorotic foliage which can develop.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop.
- As rooted cuttings develop, high light and moderate air temperatures should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGR).
- **Lucky** Lantana does not require pinching during propagation. However, to improve branching and habit, plants can be pinched 7 to 10 days before transplanting.
- **Lucky** Lantana rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 24 to 28 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

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

Temperature

- Nights: 62 to 67°F (17 to 19°C)
- Days: 74 to 85°F (23 to 29°C)

Light

- Keep light intensities above 5,000 f.c. (50,000 Lux).
- Low light levels promote stem stretch and poor flowering.

Water

- During the first 10 to 14 days, water media sparingly and never saturate. Allow media to dry somewhat between waterings.
- Avoid extended periods where the media is saturated, as this will cause root system problems.

Fertilizer

- **Lucky** Lantana has moderate to heavy fertilizer requirements to keep the plants growing vigorously. Reducing the feed causes the plant to become woody with reduced flowering.
- Use a balanced fertilizer at 225 to 300 ppm every watering to ensure maximum growth and flowering.
- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will promote unwanted vegetative growth. Both should be provided in very limited quantities.
- Controlled-release fertilizer can be used to supplement a liquid feed program.
- Flush pots periodically with clear water to avoid build-up of salts.

Pinching

- **Lucky** Lantana should be pinched 7 to 10 days after transplanting. When pinched, plants should be actively growing with roots at or near the edge of the pot. Depending on pot size and local conditions, **Lucky** Lantana should be pinched 1 to 3 times.
- Florel promotes branching and improves the habit of Lantana. No Florel should be applied within 8 weeks of sale. A range of 300 to 400 ppm, applied 1 to 3 times should be used as a guideline. Florel must be applied to plants that are under no stress (water, temperature, etc.).

Controlling Growth

- **Lucky** Lantana is generally more compact and will require less PGRs than other lantanas.
- Appropriate pinching, depending on pot size, combined with good crop culture and environment should minimize PGR applications. If needed, a tank mix of Cycocel (750 to 1,000 ppm) and B-Nine (2,000 to 3,000 ppm) applied 7 to 10 days after pinching will encourage the naturally mounded habit of **Lucky** Lantana.
- **Lucky** Lantana is also very responsive to Bonzi (10 to 40 ppm) or Sumagic (5 to 20 ppm) applied as a spray.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

Common Problems

Insects: Aphids, thrips, whitefly, spider mites, leafminer

Diseases: Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, powdery mildew

All **Lucky** Lantana cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

Problem: Plant collapse

Causes: Wet media for an extended period (Pythium, Botrytis)

Problem: Excess vegetative growth

Causes: High ammonia concentration in the soil; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light and over-watering; wet media

Problem: Poor branching

Causes: Low fertilization during early stages

Problem: Foliage necrosis

Causes: Drying out the plant between irrigations; High soluble salts in the soil; Powdery mildew

Problem: Foliage chlorosis

Causes: Low temperatures

Lucky Lantana Crop Schedule & Uses

Unrooted cuttings:
4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1–2 PP* 9 - 10 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pot 1–3 PP* 10 - 11 weeks
10-In. (25-Cm) Hanging Basket 3–5 PP* 13 - 15 weeks

Rooted cuttings:
4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1–2 PP* 6 - 7 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pot 1–3 PP* 7 - 8 weeks
10-In. (25-Cm) Hanging Basket 3–5 PP* 10 - 12 weeks

*PP: 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.

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