

Lantana Bloomify

(*Lantana camara*)

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 (PGRs). In our propagation trials of Bloomify Lantana, we had great success with Florel 250 ppm tank mixed with 1,250 ppm B-Nine applied as a spray.
- Bloomify Lantana does not require pinching during propagation. However, to improve branching and habit, plants can be pinched 7 to 10 days before transplanting.
- Bloomify 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

- Bloomify 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

- Bloomify 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.
- 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.).
- In finished trials of Bloomify Lantana we had great success with a rate of 250 ppm Florel applied as a spray 14 days after transplant.

Controlling Growth

- 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) will encourage the naturally mounded habit of Bloomify Lantana.
- Bloomify 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.
- In California grow-outs of Bloomify, Bloomify Red was more responsive to Bonzi sprays at 10 ppm for control of finished growth.
- However, Bloomify Rose was stunted by Bonzi spray applications at 10 ppm.

- In California grow-outs of Bloomify, we found Bloomify Rose to be more responsive to Cycocel Sprays at 1,500 ppm for control of finished growth.
- However, Bloomify Red was not controlled by Cycocel spray applications at 1,500 ppm.

Common Problems

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

Diseases: Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, Powdery Mildew.

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

Problems: Plant collapse

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

Problems: Excess vegetative growth

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

?Problems: Poor branching

Causes: Low fertilization during early stages

?Problems: Foliage necrosis

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

?Problems: Foliage chlorosis

Causes: Low temperatures

?Bloomify Lantana Crop Schedule & Uses (Crop Schedule In Weeks)

Unrooted cuttings

4-in. (10-cm) Pot 1 to 2 PPP*: 9-10

6-in. (15-cm) Pot 1 to 3 PPP*: 10-11

10-in. (25-cm) Hanging Basket 3 to 5 PPP*: 13-15

Rooted cuttings

4-in. (10-cm) Pot 1 to 2 PPP*: 6-7

6-in. (15-cm) Pot 1 to 3 PPP*: 7-8

10-in. (25-cm) Hanging Basket 3 to 5 PPP*: 10-12
*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. Test all rates for your conditions prior to applying PGR's in propagation.

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