

Phlox Paniculata

(*Phlox paniculata*)

Propagation

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- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.8 to 1.00 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 hormone basal dip of 500ppm can be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Mist at moderate to high levels for the first 24 hours to rehydrate cuttings. Use a low mist setting after this period.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N 10 days after stick.
- During root development maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media. Phlox will root slowly if rooting media is kept too wet.
- Pinching once in the propagation tray at 28 to 32 days after sticking will promote a well-branched finished plant.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 42 to 49 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:** 55 to 60°F (13 to 15°C)
- **Days:** 60 to 75°F (15 to 23°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 65°F (17°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of warm temperatures.
- Phlox do not require vernalization for flowering.

Light

- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Phlox are considered a long-day plant. Natural

flowering occurs when day length exceeds 13 hours.

- Finish Phlox 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 150 to 200 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 again within two weeks after transplanting when there are two or fewer shoots to create very full plants.

Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments. Plants will respond to B-nine/Cycocel at 2,500/800ppm if growing conditions cause stretch.

Common Problems

Insects: Aphid, Spider Mite

Diseases: Phlox is naturally Powdery Mildew resistant however should be treated if conditions are conducive to PM. Pythium can be a problem if overwatered.

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 young foliage Saturated media**Foliage necrosis**

High soluble salts in media

Excessive water stress

Pesticide application

Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule in Weeks. Spring planting is recommended)

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

Unrooted cutting Not Recommended

Rooted cutting Not Recommended

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

Unrooted cutting 15 - 17 weeks

Rooted cutting 10 - 12 weeks

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

Unrooted cutting 17 - 19 weeks

Rooted cutting 12 - 14 weeks

*PPP: Plants per pot

