

Plectranthus Mona

(*Plectranthus x hybrida*)

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 within 12 to 24 hours of arrival. Cuttings can be stored overnight, if necessary, at 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C).
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 73°F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- To encourage branching and reduce stem stretch, **Mona Lavender** Plectranthus should be propagated under as high a light level as possible while avoiding unnecessary stress on the cuttings.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop. Avoid phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen during the rooting process to reduce stretch and unwanted vegetative growth.
- As the rooted cuttings develop, high light, appropriate water stress and moderate air temperatures should reduce the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGR). If a PGR is needed, **Mona Lavender** Plectranthus is responsive to Bonzi.
- **Mona Lavender** Plectranthus does not require pinching during propagation.
- **Mona Lavender** Plectranthus rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 24 days after sticking and should be transplanted as soon as possible. Rooted cuttings should not be held, as **Mona Lavender** Plectranthus will be actively growing and plants will begin to crowd and stretch very quickly.

Growing On to Finish

Media

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

Temperature

- Nights: 59 to 64°F (15 to 18°C)
- Days: 74 to 79°F (23 to 26°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.

Light

- Keep light levels as high as possible while maintaining recommended temperatures. The ideal range would be 4,000 to 7,000 f.c. (40,000 to 70,000 Lux).
- Light levels below 4,000 f.c. (40,000 Lux) will

promote stem stretch.

- Light levels above 7,000 f.c. (70,000 Lux) will reduce foliage quality noticeably.
- **Mona Lavender** Plectranthus flowers earliest and most prolifically under a natural daylength of 12 hrs. or less. Longer daylengths will reduce or stop flowering completely.

Watering

Allow the media to dry moderately between waterings.

Fertilizer

- Maintain constant fertilization at 175 to 225 ppm N.
- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will promote unwanted vegetative growth. Both should be provided in very limited quantities.
- Slow-release fertilizer can be incorporated at a moderate rate to supplement a liquid program.

Pinching

Mona Lavender Plectranthus should be pinched 7 to 14 days after transplanting to enhance branching and increase the number of flowers. Depending on container size, a second pinch may be needed.

Controlling Growth

- Height can be controlled, in part, by maintaining moderate fertility, allowing the media to dry slightly between watering, providing maximum light, and spacing plants in advance of crowding and stretch.
- If necessary, Bonzi (5 to 20 ppm) can be applied as a foliar spray to control growth and improve habit.
- A tank mix of Cycocel (750 to 1,500 ppm) and B-Nine (2,500 to 3,500 ppm) can also be used to manage height.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.
- Growers can use blackcloth to induce flowering. Limiting daylength to 11 hours for 4 weeks will induce flowering. Plants will be ready for sale 4 to 5 weeks after short day treatment ends.

Common Problems

All **Mona Lavender** Plectranthus 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 of time
(Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Botrytis)

Problem: Yellowing foliage

Causes: High light conditions; Low fertilization

Problem: Poor branching

Causes: Low fertilization, especially nitrogen; Low light conditions

Problem: Stretched plants

Causes: Low light conditions; Crowding before spacing! Late transplanting

Mona Lavender Plectranthus Crop Schedule & Uses

Unrooted cuttings:

4.5–5-In. (11–13-Cm) Pots 1 PP* 9 - 11 weeks

6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 2–3 PP* 10 - 12 weeks

10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP* 12 - 15 weeks

Rooted cuttings:

4.5–5-In. (11–13-Cm) Pots 1 PP* 7 - 8 weeks

6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 2–3 PP* 8 - 9 weeks

10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP* 9 - 11 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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