GrowerFacts

Salvia Species Greggii

(*Salvia greggii*)

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 of 500 ppm IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Average days with mist: 12 to 15 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 4 or 5 active internodes.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 5 to 6 weeks after sticking.

Key Tips

- Use low mist settings; do not oversaturate rooting media.
- Root zone temperatures of 70°F (21°C).

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 70°F (7 to 21°C)
- **Days:** 55 to 80°F (13 to 27°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 55 to 80°F (13 to 27°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of temperatures.
- Vernalization is not required for flowering.

Light

- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 3,000 to 5,000 f.c. (30,000 to 50,000 Lux).
- Salvia greggii do not require long days to flower.

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry moderately 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 for smaller pot sizes, and twice for larger containers. Pinch as soon as the plants are well-rooted. Pinching will maximize branching and create a fuller plant.

Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, 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

Transplant into soil temperatures with a minimum of 60°F (15°C) for best establishment.

Common Problems

Insects: Whitefly, Spider Mites

Diseases: Salvia Radio Red is generally not sensitive to disease.

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 older 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. If Summer-planted, be sure to have plants well established before the start of short days.)

1 PPP* 1-quart (10-cm) pot

Unrooted cutting 12-14 weeks

Rooted cutting 8-10 weeks

1 PPP* 1-gallon (15-cm) pot
Unrooted cutting 14-16 weeks

Rooted cutting 10-12 weeks

3 PPP* 2 to 3-gallon (25 to 30-cm) pot
Unrooted cutting 16-18 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.

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