

Salvia Species Mirage

(*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 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: 10 to 12.
- 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 high in organic matter.
- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum.

Temperature

- Nights: 55 to 70°F (13 to 21°C)
- Days: 65 to 80°F (17 to 27°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 65 to 80°F (17 to 27°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of temperatures.
- Vernalization 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).
- *S. greggii* do not require long days to flower.

Watering

- 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 more full plant.

Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments.
- Responsive to B-Nine/CCC 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.

Common Problems

Insects: Whitefly, spider mites.

Diseases: Salvia Mirage series is generally not sensitive to disease.

Key Tips

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

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, low average temperatures

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 average day temperatures are below 45°F.)

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

Unrooted cutting 11 - 13 weeks

Rooted cutting 6 - 8 weeks

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

Unrooted cutting 13 - 15 weeks

Rooted cutting 8 - 10 weeks

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

Unrooted cutting 16 - 18 weeks

Rooted cutting 12 - 14 weeks

*PPP: Plants per pot or basket

