

## Rhodanthemum Casablanca

(*Rhodanthemum hosmariense*)

### Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.8 to 1.0 mmhos and a pH of 5.5 to 5.8.
- 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 basal dip of 300-500 ppm should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Mist at moderate levels for the first 24 to 48 hours to rehydrate cuttings. Avoid over-application of mist after this period. Minimal mist or tenting will yield the best results.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N after 7 days.
- During root development, maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media to ensure faster rooting.
- Soft pinching in the propagation tray at 21 to 25 days after sticking will promote a well-branched finished plant.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 28 to 35 days after sticking.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Media

- Use media with good aeration and drainage. Rhodanthemums are native to the hills of North Africa and prefer well-drained media.
- Prefers a medium that is high in organic matter.
- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum. EC of 0.8 to 1.0 mmhos.

#### Temperature

- **Nights:** 45 to 50°F (8 to 10°C)
- **Days:** 50 to 60°F (10 to 15°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth.
- An average daily temperature of 55°F (13°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of warm temperatures.
- Rhodanthemums do not require a vernalization period for bulking or flowering. They will flower naturally in early to mid-Spring and continue flowering until night temperatures exceed 70°F (21°C).

#### Light

- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 3,500 to 5,000 f.c. (35,000 to 50,000

Lux).

- Rhodanthemums flower best when given daylength in excess of 12 hours.
- Finish Rhodanthemum plants outside in full sun conditions for best quality and shortest penduncles.

#### Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry moderately between watering and never saturated. Once plants are reaching maturity, slight water stress will help avoid stretch. However, over-dry plants will develop yellow lower leaves.
- Leach regularly to avoid the buildup of high soluble salt levels.

#### Fertilizer

Use a balanced neutral fertilizer at a rate of 150 to 175 ppm.

#### Pinching

Rhodanthemum Casablanca and Marrakech have been selected for excellent natural branching habit. Fuller and larger plants can be achieved by pinching once in the propagation tray; can be pinched a second time 1 to 2 weeks after transplant to create very full plants.

#### Controlling Growth

Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments. Plants will respond to B-Nine at 2,500 ppm/CCC at 800 ppm tank mix if growing conditions cause stretch. However, flower size may be negatively affected. It is best to grow cool and use negative DIF if possible.

#### Common Problems

**Insects:** White Fly, Spider Mites

**Diseases:** Botrytis

**Problem:** Plant collapse

**Causes:** Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (Pythium); Rooted cuttings transplanted too deeply

**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 young foliage

**Causes:** Saturated media

**Problem:** Foliage necrosis

**Causes:** High soluble salts in media; Excessive water; Pesticide application

**Problem:** Poor branching and thin plants

**Causes:** Low fertilization during early stages of growth; Low light conditions

### **Crop Schedule & Uses**

(Crop schedule in weeks for Winter planting. Single pinch 1-quart. Larger containers can be single or double pinched.)

**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

Schedule for traditional Fall planting: For best results, plant liners into final container prior to week 48 in the South and week 42 in the North. Plants should be well-established in final containers before exposure to freezing or near-freezing temperatures.

