

Helianthus Salicifolius

(*Helianthus salicifolius*)

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 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 IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Average days with mist 10 to 12 days. However, Helianthus root best with little mist.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible.
- During root development maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media.
- Can 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.
- ***Avoid excess mist and soil moisture during propagation. Use long day lighting in winter propagation.**

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 6.5 is optimum.

Temperature

- **Nights:** 55 to 60°F (13 to 15°C)
- **Days:** 55 to 70°F (13 to 20°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 65 to 70°F (17 to 19°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of temperatures.
- Vernalization not required for flowering.

Light

- Will perform best under high light levels of 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Helianthus is **short day responsive**. Can be grown with garden mums under short days for

earlier flowering.

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry regularly between watering and never saturated. However, plants should not be allowed to wilt at anytime.
- 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. 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/Cycocel sprays of 2,500/1,000ppm tank mix.
- 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, aphid.

Diseases: Not sensitive.

Key Tips

Plant with garden mums for fall-flowering. Can be forced into flowering using short day regime. Final pinch should be between wk22 and 24.

Problems Causes

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/dropping of older foliage Saturated media
Excessive drought

Foliage necrosis
High soluble salts in media
Excessive water stress

Poor branching and thin plants Low fertilization
during early stages of growth
Low light conditions

Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule in Weeks for late spring planting–
Spring planting is recommended for this crop. Can be
scheduled with garden mums.)

1 PPP* 1-qt. (10-cm) pot
Unrooted cutting Not recommended

Rooted cutting Not recommended

1 PPP* 1-gal. (15-cm) pot
Unrooted cutting 17 - 20 weeks

Rooted cutting 12 - 15 weeks

3 PPP* 2 to 3-gal. (25 to 30-cm) pot
Unrooted cutting 17 - 20 weeks

Rooted cutting 12 - 15 weeks

*PPP: Plants per pot or basket

