

IMPORTANT-PLEASE READ ME

Pansy and Viola Tips

Ahead of time:

- Media-Check to make sure pH is between 5.0 and 5.5. A low or no nutrient charge is recommended for Pansy production.
- Fertilizer-Avoid high-ammonia based fertilizers. Current guidelines suggest alternating applications of calcium nitrate based feeds such as 13-2-13 with low ammonia feeds such as 20-10-20 gives the best results.
- Water-Should be tested before the season starts. The ideal water source should be less than 700ppm TDS with 60 to 80ppm bicarbonates. Levels above these require extra diligence to prevent undesirable salt build-up and/or pH changes.
- Sanitation-Treat the growing area with disinfectant to help prevent the occurrence of disease causing organisms (such as Black Root Rot). For the same reasons be sure to always use new containers and media for your Pansies.

When you receive your plugs:

- Inspect- Open the boxes promptly when they arrive and check them for any signs of problems. Please notify either Speedling or your broker if you have any concerns.
- Transplant promptly- Acclimatize flats for 24 hours before transplanting keeping them under shade at a minimum of 65 degree nights. After acclimating the flats be sure to transplant promptly. Pansy quality declines quickly once the plugs are mature.
- Location- They should be grown where the night-time temperatures are between 60 and 65 degrees F. Night temperatures above 68 degrees F will encourage tall and poorly branched plants. In warm climates in early fall transplantings benefit from 20 to 40% shade for the first 7 to 10 days to help keep them cool. Otherwise be sure to grow them in full sun.
- Watering- initially when irrigating do not saturate media when you water. Pansy root growth suffers under long periods of saturation. They should be allowed to dry out before being irrigated again but should not be dried out to the point of wilting.

Afterwards:

- Fertilization- Do not feed for first 2 or 3 days to allow roots to grow out. If there is a nutrient charge in the media do not begin feeding for the first 7 to 10 days. You should be seeing roots growing out of the plug after the first 2 or 3 days. Pansies are considered a low nutrient crop be sure to feed but do not overdo it. 125ppm N based on a constant feed program is a recommended starting point, increase the rate if the potential for heavy leaching occurs such as field growing.
- Monitor pH and salts- Do weekly tests of media to track development and catch early signs of nutrient problems. Foliar testing is also recommended to insure your plants are getting the right level of nutrients.
- Minimize Stress- High temperatures in the early fall season opens the door for nutrient deficiencies (such as Boron deficiency) and diseases such as Black Root Rot. Try to keep all forms of stress (temperature, moisture, nutrition) to a minimum.
- Disease Prevention/Sanitation- Scout weekly for pale colored or slow growing individuals. Check for dark colored roots and/or crown rot. If found, discard those pots promptly. Preventative fungicide programs generally are more effective than those based on curative (after the disease is present). **Your plugs Speedling will have been treated with an application of Rootshield (a biological fungicide) and a Cleary's 3336/Subdue drench.**
- Finish Times- Depending on time of year, container size and market specifications it should take between three to seven weeks to finish your containers from a Speedling plug.