Isotoma (Laurentia)

Beth's Blue®

NUTRITION

pH: 5.8 – 6.2
EC: (2:1 extraction method) .6 – .9
Constant feeding at 150ppm – 200ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix is recommended.

TEMPERATURE

Rooting out: 65 – 72 F
Growing on: 65 – 70 F
Holding: 55 – 65 F

WATERING

Maintain moderate soil moisture. Allow the soil to cycle from moist to slightly dry. Avoid both severe dry downs/wilting and long periods of wet soil. This is especially true if growing at cooler temperatures. Growing too wet early in the production cycle, watering too late in the day, or watering during poor weather conditions may cause disease issues.

TIMING

4" – 5": 5 – 6 weeks with one 84 cell plant per container.
6"/1GL Royale: 7 – 9 weeks with one to two 84 cell plants per container.
8": 8 – 10 weeks with one to two 84 cell plants per container.
10": 10 – 12 weeks with three to five 84 cell plants per container.

PLANTING

84 liner cell plants should be planted slightly deeper than the liner root ball into a well drained soil mix selected to match individual water quality and fertilizer blends. Water in thoroughly without saturating the mix and maintain a constant moderate soil moisture level for the first seven to 10 days to establish new rooting. The 84 liner cell plants arrive already pinched and additional pinching should not be needed.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

Beth's Blue® should be grown in a high light area of the greenhouse for optimal plant development and flowering time. Additional lighting is not required for flowering in most areas of the U.S. for mid-May and later finished dates. If finishing in northern areas of the U.S. for late April through early May finish, daylength extension or night interruption lighting similar to that used with mums can be helpful for desired flowering.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Beth's Blue should not require any PGR treatments if growing recommendations are followed. If needed, a spray application of B-Nine® (daminozide) at 1,250ppm – 1,500ppm is effective.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

There should be little instance of disease if basic cultural guidelines are followed. Botrytis and root rots can occur in poor growing conditions if higher than recommended soil moisture levels are maintained. Avoid watering late in the day or in poor weather conditions. Extended periods of moisture on the foliage can lead to Botrytis issues. Control excessive humidity levels in the greenhouse and provide adequate air movement and space.

Thrips are the primary pest on Beth's Blue. They can damage both blooms and foliage from their feeding activity. Other possible pests would be Aphids and Whitefly. Scout crops on a regular basis and use control measures as needed.

OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

Beth's Blue can be finished outdoors in the first-to-move-outdoors crop grouping. But the much cooler average growing temperatures of growing outdoors in much of the U.S. can greatly delay flowering. Due to the risk of delayed flowering, here at Four Star (Michigan) we would consider moving these plants outdoors in mid- to late May if weather allows.

OTHER TIPS

Provide a high light growing environment. For optimum flower timing, grow at moderate temperatures. These plants are very cold-tolerant but lower growing temperatures, especially in earlier spring, will delay flowering. Provide adequate spacing, good air movement, moderate soil moisture levels and moderate nutrition to produce the highest quality crop. Avoid wet foliage for extended periods of time, especially in poor weather conditions.

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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.