

# Nepeta

## 'Cat's Meow'



### ZONE HARDINESS 4 – 9

#### NUTRITION

**pH:** 5.8 – 6.2

**EC:** (2:1 extraction method) 0.6 – 0.9

Moderate fertilization is recommended. 100ppm – 200 ppm N

#### TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

**Forcing:** 65 F – 72 F

**Growing on:** 55 F – 65 F

**Holding:** 40 F – 50 F

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to a frost protected open environment with good air movement.

#### WATERING

Keep the soil evenly moist during all stages of growing.

*Nepeta* requires average to slightly below average amounts of irrigation. Too much water and fertilizer will promote lush uncontrollable growth.

#### TIMING

**Supernova® 28 Liner to Trade Gallon/True Gallon:** 6 – 8 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Week 18.

**50 Liner to Quart:** 5 – 6 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 12 for finishing in Week 18. Planting a 50 count liner into a Gallon container and bulking in the summer/fall is also a great way to finish a larger high quality spring crop with excellent flowering.

#### VERNALIZATION

While a cold treatment on *Nepeta* is not required, vernalized plants grow more vigorously and tend to flower more rapidly and uniformly than plants with no exposure to cold.

If purchased in the spring, our Supernova 28 and 50 count liners have been vernalized for proper flowering.

#### PLANTING

*Nepeta* perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium. When your plants arrive, they may appear dormant, but it will only take 4 – 7 days for new growth to appear once they are planted. Plant the dormant plug so that the soil line of the plug is even to or just slightly below the soil line of the fresh planting media.

When growing perennials, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark based media, as opposed to an annual growing mix that traditionally tend to be heavier in peat. Bark adds weight and stability to the growing mix and tends not to compress and shrink over time, thus adding the longevity that can be needed on long term crops such as perennials.

#### LIGHT/LIGHTING

*Nepeta* enjoy full sun and high light conditions. No photoperiodic lighting should be needed.

#### TRIMMING/PINCHING

Plants respond well to shearing and this will promote reblooming in the summer after the first flush of color has faded.

#### GROWTH REGULATORS

*Nepeta* is best controlled with cooler production temperatures, proper spacing and early trimming.

#### PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

A good routine scouting program is recommended to ensure that insects don't cause damage, but damage and crop loss due to insect problems seem to be rare on *Nepeta*. Scout and spray preventively for foliar diseases as well.

#### SPECIAL NOTES

When growing larger containers, it is best to bulk them in the summer/fall the year before they are to be sold.



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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.