

Phlox

Opening Act



ZONE HARDINESS 4 – 8

NUTRITION

pH: 5.8 — 6.5

EC: (2:1 extraction method) 0.8 — 1.3

Moderate fertilization is adequate.

TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

Forcing/Growing on: 60 F Night – 65 F Day

Holding: 40 F Night – 50 F Day

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

WATERING

Keep the soil evenly moist during all stages of growing. *Phlox* requires average amounts of irrigation. Avoid watering late in the day to assist in powdery mildew prevention.

TIMING

Supernova® 28 Liner to Trade Gallon/True Gallon: 9 – 11 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Week 18. If purchased in the spring, our liners have been properly vernalized for proper flowering.

50 Liner to Quart: 9 – 11 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 9 for finishing in Week 18. If purchased in the spring, our liners have been properly vernalized for proper flowering. Planting a Standard 50 liner into a gallon and bulking in the fall is also a great way to finish a high quality spring crop.

VERNALIZATION

Vernalization will increase plant vigor, decrease time to flower and improve uniformity of flowering.

PLANTING

Phlox paniculata perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium. Avoid planting *Phlox* too deeply, or crop variability and/or losses from crown rots are likely to occur.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

Phlox Opening Act are long day plants and require at least 14 hours of light to flower if the plants have not received a cold treatment. If a fall planting is done, *Phlox* benefit greatly from long days and high light during bulking and then high light during vernalization. Additionally, during forcing, they also require high light conditions for uniform growth and for producing a high quality crop.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Generally, *Phlox paniculata* are forced into flower in the spring and flowers are formed during the fall. Pinching is only recommended in the early fall after planting to improve branching and flower count on the finished plant the following spring. Trimming and shaping of spent flowers can be done to re-flush color for summer sales.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Effective growth regulators include the tank mixes of B-Nine® (daminozide) at 2,500ppm + Sumagic® (uniconazole) at 5ppm or Sumagic alone at 10ppm. Withholding water and fertilizer, providing adequate space between plants, and finishing them in an open cooler environment are all good ways of controlling height on *Phlox*. Forcing under cooler temperatures will require a longer overall finished crop time.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Aphids, Spider Mites, Thrips, and Whiteflies are the most common insect pests observed on *Phlox*. A good routine scouting program is recommended to ensure that these and other greenhouse pests don't cause crop loss. Foliar diseases should also be scouted for to prevent Powdery Mildew and Alternaria. Again, providing adequate air movement and keeping moisture off the plants late in the day will be beneficial to producing high quality plants.

OTHER TIPS

When growing larger containers, it is best to bulk them in the summer 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.