

Spiraea



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. Additional iron and manganese may be needed if chlorosis is observed.

TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

Forcing/Growing on: 65 F Night – 72 F Day

Holding: 40 F Night – 50 F Day

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to a frost protected open environment with good air movement. Crops will slow down in the heat of the summer.

WATERING

Moderate to moist: Water thoroughly without oversaturating, and keep moist during all stages of production. *Spiraea* suffer in quality when exposed to dry down. Keep watered adequately during the rooting in stage – especially during hot months.

TIMING

28 Liner to True 1 Gallon: 8 – 10 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Weeks 18 – 20. If a larger size is desired, we recommend planting these in the fall and doing additional bulking prior to dormancy. Planting a 28-count liner into a 2 – 3 Gallon container and bulking in the summer is also a great way to finish a larger high quality spring crop. Double Play® Gold and Blue Kazoo® may require two extra weeks of production time when planted from all sizes.

Quick Turn Liner to True 1 Gallon: 7 – 8 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Week 18. Planting a Quick Turn liner in Week 20 for finishing in Week 28 is also achievable.

Quick Turn Liner to 2 – 3 Gallon: Planting a Quick Turn liner into a 2 – 3 Gallon container and bulking in the summer is also a great way to finish a larger high quality spring crop.

VERNALIZATION

Vernalization for flowering is beneficial on *Spiraea*. They will not put on a full flower show without a cold treatment. For this reason, we recommend planting the previous season for a higher quality spring display. Care should be taken not to dry down plants at any point in the production cycle, even in cold storage. *Spiraea* can be held with minimal heat throughout the winter.

PLANTING

Spiraea perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium. But at the same time, they must always be kept moist.

When growing shrubs, 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 shrubs.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

During early spring forcing, plants should be given high light. Crops should also be spaced in such a way that they do not shade each other. Unspaced plants can stretch, require additional pruning, and lead to an undesirable look on the retail bench.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Spiraea benefit from frequent light pruning rather than hard pruning. Avoid pruning except for shape in the early spring. Once the plants have flowered, additional pruning for shape can resume. They will re-bloom if sheared after the first flush of color.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Avoid pinching until after flowering because flowers appear only on terminals that have been properly vernalized. Pruning and trimming for shape is used mostly on *Spiraea* to control plant height after flowering. Cultural practices such as cooler holding temperatures, proper spacing and good air movement in an open environment can also help control plant height and assist in finishing a high quality crop.



Four Star Greenhouse | www.PWfourstar.com | 734-654-6420

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.



PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Aphids and Spider Mites are the most prevalent insect pests associated with *Spiraea*. Scout and spray preventatively in April/May to prevent outbreaks in June and July when Spider Mites are more actively growing. We recommend implementing a good IPM program as well as early releases of Biological Control, to help aid in the control of insect populations. Spray with a regular fungicide rotation to control Powdery Mildew as heavy spray may cause leaf burn.

SPECIAL NOTES

When growing larger containers like 3 Gallons, it is best to bulk them in the summer/fall the year before they are to be sold. This allows additional root growth, as well as additional pruning. Any surplus 1 gallon containers can easily be bumped into 3 gallon containers in the summer for next year's spring sales.

