

Weigela



ZONE HARDINESS 4 – 8

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/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.

WATERING

Moderate to moist: Water thoroughly without over-saturating. Keep moist but not wet throughout entire growth cycle.

TIMING

28 Liner to True 1 Gallon: 10 – 12 weeks with one plug per container. A planting date for spring finishing would be Week 8 for finishing in Weeks 18 – 20. However, planting a Supernova 28 in the spring can be difficult to provide the size and flower show needed to compare with nursery grown material. We recommend planting these in the late summer or fall and doing additional bulking prior to dormancy.

Quick Turn™ 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 Week 18. Planting a Quick Turn 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 late summer or fall is a great way to finish a larger, high quality spring crop.

VERNALIZATION

Vernalization for flowering is required for the first full flush of color on *Weigela*. In the early spring, they will not flower consistently without an adequate cold treatment.

PLANTING

Weigela perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium.

When growing shrubs, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark based media as opposed to annual growing mixes 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 as much light as possible. High light will ensure darker foliage in Wine and Roses® and Spilled Wine®. Poly grown plants will have lighter colored foliage. Crops should be spaced such that they do not shade each other. Unspaced plants can stretch, require additional pruning and lead to an undesirable look on the retail bench.

Light shading can be beneficial in the summer heat, as *Weigela* can sometimes struggle and burn in really hot locations.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Frequent pruning in the summer and fall will produce a tightly mounding product which will have a longer shelf life at retail. A late season flush of color is possible with a mid-summer prune followed by a good fertilization program. This is especially true on the Sonic Bloom® series.





GROWTH REGULATORS

Avoid pinching until after spring flowering. Light tip pinching and trimming is used mostly on *Weigela* to control plant height after flowering and in building a compact mound. Cultural practices such as cooler holding temperatures and good air movement in an open environment can also help control plant height and assist in finishing a high quality crop. Spilled Wine is naturally compact and shouldn't require the use of growth regulators.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Spider Mites are the most prevalent insect pests associated with *Weigela*. Scout and spray preventatively in April and 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 control insect populations. Avoid using M-Pede® on *Weigela* because it can cause phytotoxicity.

OTHER TIPS

When growing larger containers like 3 gallons, it is best to bulk them in the summer 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 fall for spring sales.

