

Cultural Procedure for Growing Lilac Festival



CROP TYPE

Proven Winners® 2018 National Spring Recipe — Lilac Festival

Supertunia® Bordeaux™, Supertunia Mini Blue Veined, Superbena® Violet Ice

CROP TIME

Approximately 7 – 10 weeks

10" baskets: 7 – 9 weeks planted either 3x3x3 or 2x2x2

12" baskets: 8 – 10 weeks planted either 3x3x3 or 2x2x2

10" – 12" uprights: 7 – 9 weeks planted either 3x3x3 or 2x2x2

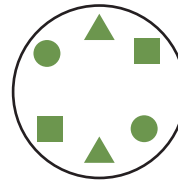
LILAC FESTIVAL

▲ Supertunia Mini Blue Veined *Petunia*

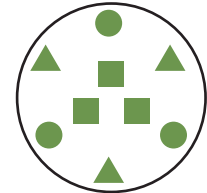
● Superbena Violet Ice *Verbena*

■ Supertunia Bordeaux *Petunia*

2x2x2 Planting Option



3x3x3 Planting Option



Day	Hanging Basket and Upright Combinations Cultural Procedures
*Planning	The 84 and 104 Liners are usually used in producing both hanging baskets and upright containers. But using Supernova® Liners can be considered for early production if flowering or overall quality has been a problem in the past. Some growers use the Supernova 42 or Supernova 84 Liners for improving these early season crops. The Supernova Liners can provide earlier flowering and more controlled growth in comparison to 84 and 104 Liners.
Planting	<p>A soil mix with moderate water holding capacity and good aeration is recommended. Maintain a soil pH level of 5.6 – 5.8.</p> <p>For best combination appearance, plant each container following the planting diagram. Each plant should be planted at the same level or only slightly deeper than the liner cell soil line.</p> <p>Water in the containers thoroughly but do not saturate the soil. If the soil mix contains a fertilizer charge, clear water can be used. If a fertilizer charge is not added to the soil mix, water in with a solution containing 100ppm N selected to match the greenhouse water quality. If planting on a sunny day, be certain to water in all containers before any plant stress occurs.</p>
Day 1 to 14	If possible, we prefer to start baskets and uprights pot to pot on benches or floors until rooted in well. This allows for easier care when watering, spraying, drenching or pinching. Water lightly for the next seven to 10 days as needed to ensure good "rooting in" of the plants and to avoid plant damage from excessive drying. At this time, a preventative drench of Banrot® (etridiazole), or similar material, can be applied, if desired. Greenhouse temperatures of 65 F night – 70 F day are helpful during this rooting out phase.
Plant – ship	Baskets and uprights should be grown in bright greenhouse areas with few overhead obstructions, which can reduce light. Once rooted well, growing temperatures of 60 F night and 68 F day are recommended. Cooler growing temperatures can be used but can add to crop times. An average daily temperature of no less than 60 F is recommended for proper flowering times. Also, good air movement and humidity-control practices should be followed.
Day 10 to 14	If desired, an application of Florel® (ethephon) can be made once the roots reach the edge of the container. Florel can be applied at 350ppm – 500ppm as a spray. These plants branch very freely, and Florel applications are not made on Four Star finished containers. Also, if using Supernovas, DO NOT apply Florel.



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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.



Day	Hanging Basket and Upright Combinations Cultural Procedures
Day 14 to 21	If started on benches or floors, a light pinch can be applied to both baskets and uprights on an “as needed” basis – only a light trim though. Any trimming should only be done to “shape” the combination. More severe “cutbacks” will delay flowering and crop dates. Containers started from Supernovas should not require pinching.
Day 14 to ship	After rooting well into the finished container, all combinations should be allowed to “cycle” soil moisture levels from moist to slightly dry. Avoid both long periods of saturated soil and undo plant stress caused by excessive drying. Maintain growing temperatures of 60 F night and 68 F day. Also at this time, in most cases fertilize constantly at each irrigation with 200ppm N. Select a fertilizer blend that is matched to your water alkalinity to maintain desired soil pH levels.
Day 18 to 21	If started on benches or floors, baskets are normally hung at this time. Uprights, if grown pot to pot, are also spaced at this time. When baskets are hung or uprights spaced, be certain to supply adequate spacing to these plants for optimum finished quality. Also, if 84 or 104 Liners were used and no PGR application was made before or at planting, a Bonzi drench of 1ppm – 2ppm or spray of Sumagic® (uniconazole) at 10ppm – 15ppm should be applied at this time. If Supernova Liners were used, no PGR treatment should be needed at this time.
*Day 18 to 21	If outdoor production is planned, this is usually when we move the crops to the outdoor growing areas. Short-term and long-term weather forecasts must be reviewed and considered before making such moves. Supertunias are quite cold-tolerant and do well in outdoor growing environments but Superbenas should be moved outdoors later. Please note that crop times are longer in outdoor production plans. Please refer to the Four Star outdoor growing guide if outdoor finishing is considered.
2 to 3 weeks prior to ship date	If desired by the grower, and based on plant size, it is often helpful to drench both baskets and uprights with 1ppm – 3ppm Bonzi. Before applying any PGR, ensure adequate growth has been achieved by all plants in the combination. This treatment both controls growth and tones the combination for shipping. If needed or desired by the grower and if flowering is at or near the desired stage, temperatures can also be lowered to 55 F night and 65 F day to also control growth and tone the combination for shipping. Another option for toning and slowing the crop could be applying a negative DIF of -4 to -5 F each day at sunrise.