



## NUTRITION

**pH:** 5.8 – 6.4

**EC:** (2:1 extraction method) .8 – 1.2

Constant feeding at 200ppm – 300ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix is recommended.

## TEMPERATURE

**Rooting out:** 65 – 72 F

**Growing on:** 55 – 68 F

**Holding:** 50 – 60 F

## WATERING

Maintain moderate soil moisture. Allow the soil to cycle from moist to dry. Avoid both severe dry downs/wilting and long periods of wet soil, especially in cooler temperature, low light, and high humidity conditions. Intensia® *Phlox* perform best if grown drier than many crops.

## TIMING

**4" – 5":** 4 – 5 weeks with one 84 or 104 cell plant per container.

**6"/1GL Royale™:** 5 – 7 weeks with one to two 84 or 104 cell plants per container.

**8":** 7 – 9 weeks with two to three 84 or 104 cell plants per container.

**10" – 12" Hanging Basket:** 9 – 12 weeks with three to five 84 or 104 cell plants per container.

## PLANTING

The 84 and 104 Liner plants should be planted into a well-drained soil mix selected to match individual water quality and fertilizer blends. Water in thoroughly without saturating the mix and maintain a constant moderate soil moisture level for the first seven to 10 days to establish new rooting. Plants have already been pinched and further pinching should not be needed, except in the case of taller material at time of planting or a second pinch on plants for larger containers. This second pinch can be given for larger containers, usually two to three weeks after planting.

## LIGHT/LIGHTING

These plants should be grown in a high light area of the greenhouse for optimal flowering and plant development. Intensia *Phlox* flower fairly early and lighting should not be needed for regular season crops. Daylength extension lighting of 14 to 16 hours total daylength can be helpful for early finish crops.

## GROWTH REGULATORS

Moisture management alone is an effective method of controlling growth. Not only does growing the Intensias "on the dry side" produce the healthiest plants, it also produces fuller and more compact plants. Intensias are quite responsive to PGRs and care should be taken when making applications. A light spray application of 2ppm – 5ppm Sumagic® (uniconazole), a 2,500ppm – 5,000ppm standard spray of B-Nine® (daminozide), or a 1ppm Bonzi® (paclobutrazol) drench can be selected, as needed. Blueberry may require a PGR treatment, while White may not. Watch for the "softening" look and lighter green appearance of new growth as an indication for PGR treatment needs. In more northern areas, the lower rates should be used as a starting base, while in more southern areas, the higher rates will probably be needed. Other materials such as Topflor® (flurprimidol) and Piccolo® (paclobutrazol) can be used at rates that correspond with the degree of treatment recommended for Sumagic or Bonzi.

**Watering practices, weather, and greenhouse environment can greatly affect plant growth and performance.**

## PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Proper temperature, light levels, and water management will eliminate most disease issues. Avoid darker, warmer, and more humid areas with poor air movement. A broad spectrum fungicide such as Banrot® (etridiazole plus thiophanate-methyl) can be helpful when applied at transplant, if desired. Scout for Fungus Gnat Larvae. A preventative Fungus Gnat treatment could be considered.



## OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

Intensia *Phlox* can be grown outdoors in the second earliest spring conditions (approximately frost to 28 F, or mid- to late April in Michigan), if frost protection is provided. Try to avoid cool, rainy conditions when moving young plants outdoors. These recommendations are based on average spring weather and should be adjusted for unseasonably severe or unseasonably mild conditions.

## OTHER TIPS

- **Intensia *Phlox* should be transplanted soon after delivery of the rooted cuttings. Stress in the 84 or 104 tray can lead to plant loss.**
- **Grow drier without causing severe dry down or wilting. A well-drained soil mix is important and will lead to better water management and root growth.**
- After rooting into the finished container, maintain cooler growing temperatures, drier soil, proper soil pH, bright growing conditions, controlled humidity levels, and good air movement for best plant performance.
- Do not grow small containers under high-density hanging baskets.
- Intensias are fairly aggressive plants and heavy feeders, but also require less frequent irrigations. Fertilize with each irrigation at 200ppm – 300ppm nitrogen, and monitor soil fertilizer levels for optimum plant performance.
- **These are great garden performers and best suited for peak and later finishing dates. Do not plan early season crops, especially in small containers.**