Grasses
Cool Annual

ZONE HARDINESS:
7 – 10: Graceful Grasses® Toffee Twist *Carex* SN28 and 84
7 – 10: Mexican Feather Grass Nasella (*Stipa*) 84
7 – 11: Red Bunny Tails *Pennisetum* 50
8 – 10: Graceful Grasses® Fiber Optic Grass *Isolepsis* 50

NUTRITION
pH: 5.8 – 6.5
EC: (2:1 extraction method) 0.9 – 1.5
Moderate fertilization is recommended. 100ppm – 200 ppm N

TEMPERATURE
Forcing/Growing on: 60 Night – 65 F Day
Holding: 50 Night – 55 F Day

WATERING
Water in the planted containers at time of transplant well, then grow on the dry side to encourage root development and discourage root rot, but do not allow plants to wilt. Keep the soil evenly moist. To avoid possible disease concerns, Mexican Feather Grass and Graceful Grasses® Fiber Optic Grass should not be watered from overhead, if possible. Fiber Optic Grass is a water or bog plant and enjoys more of a moist to wet growing condition, but too much water and fertilizer can cause them to get tall and leggy, and will create the need for frequent trimming. Dry down will cause the tips to burn on all these varieties. When this happens, the only cure is a trim, which can dramatically increase the overall crop time.

TIMING
Supernova®28 Liner (Toffee Twist) to Trade Gallon/ True Gallon/Combinations: 8 – 12 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 8 for finishing in Weeks 18 – 20. Summer growing can be planned with an eight week grow time.

50/84 Liner to Gallon: For spring growing, allow 8 – 10 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 8 for finishing in Week 18. In the summer, eight weeks will be sufficient.

50/84 Liner to Quart: For spring growing, allow 6 – 8 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 12 for finishing in Week 20. In the summer, six weeks will be sufficient.

PLANTING
Liners should always be planted even to the soil line of the plug. Red Bunny Tails may appear to be semi-dormant (but not totally brown or dead) at the time of arrival. Hold these liners in a cool house until it's time to plant. Temperature of 50 – 55 degrees for this is adequate. Letting most of these cooler season grasses sit in a warm greenhouse for a prolonged period of time can allow them to start to grow rapidly and can later on adversely affect the finished look of the product.

LIGHT/LIGHTING
During growing, plants should be given as much light as possible. Plants should be spaced so they do not shade each other. This is especially crucial on Fiber Optic Grass, as it can easily grow into itself, making for a difficult retail presentation.

TRIMMING/PINCHING
Trimming should be avoided on grasses except upon receiving and transplanting. Once trimmed, they will always have the old trimmed leaves in place and this will adversely affect the look on the retail bench. Grow these in the proper environment and trimming should not be needed. If trimming is necessary, they can be cut halfway back in the spring for reflushing for summer or fall sales. Moving these to a cooler holding area with good air movement is important in finishing and holding a quality crop.

GROWTH REGULATORS
Unless otherwise noted below, growth regulators are generally not needed on these ornamental grasses. Use the proper growing environments to ensure proper growth.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT
Bird Cherry Oat Aphids can be a problem on ornamental grasses. Scout also for Spider Mites, Japanese Beetles, Spittlebugs, Thrips and Whiteflies. Watch for Crown and Stem Rots as well as Leaf Spots and Rust.

Weeding may be needed on occasion. We recommend implementing a good IPM program, as well as early releases of Biological Control to help control insect and disease problems.

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.

Grasses Continued

OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

The cool grasses should be grown outdoors only after the danger of frost has past (mid to late May in Michigan). The foliage can be damaged from a very light frost. This recommendation is based on average spring weather and should be adjusted for unseasonably severe or unseasonably mild conditions.

OTHER TIPS

If a larger size is desired, follow the same culture as above but plant using three plants per pot of Supernova 28s, or Standard 50s or 84s, or plant up crops using previous season's 1 gallon containers.

It's normal for Red Bunny Tails *Pennisetum* to display a more intense red flower in the spring, while summer flower stems appear as a creamy white.

When using ornamental grasses in upright combinations, it may be beneficial to plant plugs in quarts and plant these into the combo at a later date so the finished date of the combination is better matched with the finish time of the grass.