

Salvia

Color Spires®



ZONE HARDINESS 3 – 8

NUTRITION

pH: 5.8 – 6.2

EC: (2:1 extraction method) 0.6 – 1.0

Moderate fertilization is adequate.

TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

Forcing/Growing on: 60 F Night – 65 F Day

Holding: 40 F Night – 50 F Day

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to an open environment with good air movement. Plan ahead on this step because *Salvia* grow very fast coming out of dormancy and can get leggy very quickly if grown too warm.

WATERING

Keep the soil evenly moist during all stages of growing. *Salvia* requires average amounts of irrigation, and overly wet conditions will promote tall, leggy growth.

TIMING

Supernova® 28 Liner to Trade Gallon/True Gallon: 5 – 6 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 12 for finishing in Week 18. If purchased in the spring, our liners have been vernalized for better flowering.

50 Liner to Quart: 5 – 6 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 12 for finishing in Week 18. If purchased in the spring, our liners have been vernalized for better flowering. Planting a Standard 50 liner into a gallon and bulking in the fall is a great way to finish a high quality spring crop.

VERNALIZATION

Vernalization is beneficial for the most prolific and uniform flowering in the spring.

PLANTING

Salvia perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium. Avoid planting *Salvia* too deeply, or crop variability and/or losses from Crown Rots are likely to occur.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

Salvia are facultative long day plants and flower induction occurs more rapidly under long days. They will flower under any photoperiod, but will flower quicker and better under long days. Additionally, they also enjoy high light conditions.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Trimming and pinching can be done on *Salvia* early on when a fall planting is done. Pinching 2 to 4 weeks after transplant in the fall can assist in building a plant that has a thicker form and also give you more flowers spikes per pot. Trimming is not recommended when forcing plants in the spring or on plants that have been freshly planted in the spring from cooled liners. Light trimming and shaping of spent flowers can be done to re-flush some color for summer sales.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Generally, controlling the plant height on *Salvia* may be needed while producing them in greenhouse conditions. This is normally done using cultural practices along with growth regulators. Effective growth regulators include the tank mix of B-Nine® (daminozide) at 2,000ppm + Sumagic® (uniconazole) at 3ppm. Applications of B-Nine at 2,500ppm alone or + Sumagic at 5 – 7ppm alone can also be used.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

On *Salvia*, the most common insect problem to watch for is the two-spotted Spider Mite. We recommend implementing a good IPM program, as well as early releases of Biological Control, to help aid in the control of insect populations. A routine scouting program is recommended to ensure that Whiteflies, Aphids and other greenhouse pests don't cause crop loss as well. Foliar diseases should also be scouted to prevent Botrytis and Crown Rots.

OTHER TIPS

When growing larger containers, it is best to bulk them in the summer the year before they are to be sold.

When planting *Salvia* in combinations, it's recommended to plant the *Salvia* liners 3 – 4 weeks before the scheduled finish date so that the flower spikes on the *Salvia* coincide with the retail look of the rest of the plants in the container.



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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.