

Buddleia



ZONE HARDINESS 5 – 9

NUTRITION

pH: 5.6 – 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: 45 F Night – 55 F Day

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to a frost protected open environment with good air movement.

WATERING

Dry to moderate: Water thoroughly without oversaturating. Keep moist during root development and allow soil surface to dry slightly before watering after the crop is rooted to the edge of the pot.

TIMING

28 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 Weeks 18 – 20. If a larger size is desired, we recommend planting them in the fall and doing additional bulking prior to dormancy. Planting a 28 count liner into a 2 – 3 gallon container and bulking in the summer is also a great way to finish a larger high quality spring crop.

Quick Turn™ Liner to True 1 Gallon: 6 – 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 26 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 fall is a great way to finish a larger high quality spring crop.

VERNALIZATION

Buddleia do not require vernalization for flowering. They will flower without a cold treatment.

PLANTING

Buddleia 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

Buddleia are day-length neutral and do not require long days for flowering and forcing. However, they seem to flower and finish faster when they are grown under long days.

During early spring forcing, plants should be given as much light as possible. Plants 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.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Pinching is usually needed on *Buddleia* at some point during production. A pinch on all the growing tips as soon as they break dormancy can lead to a plant that has a more controlled habit and will present better at retail. Additional trimming can be done throughout growing to ensure good form, but flowering will be delayed. Ensure at least six weeks in the spring from pinch to flower. Plants will reflush quicker in the summer following a pinch.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Trimming and pruning are used mostly on *Buddleia* to control plant height. Cultural practices such as good air movement in an open environment can also help control plant height and assist in finishing a high quality crop.



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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.



PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Spider Mites are the most prevalent insect pests associated with *Buddleia*. Scout and spray preventatively in April and May to prevent outbreaks in June and July, when Spider Mites are growing more actively. 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 *Buddleia* because it can cause phytotoxicity.

OTHER TIPS

When growing larger containers like 2 and 3 gallons, it is best to bulk them in the summer or fall 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 or early spring for spring sales.

Buddleia will rebloom in approximately 4 – 6 weeks from a prune during the summer. Hence, having up to 3 – 4 crop cycles will allow you to continually have fresh product ready to sell, covered with large terminal blooms.

