

# Lobelia

Laguna™ and Lucia®



## NUTRITION

**pH:** 5.8 – 6.2

**EC:** (2:1 extraction method) .6 – .9

Constant feeding at 150ppm – 200ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix is recommended.

## TEMPERATURE

**Rooting out:** 65 – 72 F

**Growing on:** 65 – 72 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 at cooler temperatures.

## TIMING

**4" – 5":** 4 – 6 weeks with one 84 or 104 Liner plant per container.

**6"/1GL Royale™:** 5 – 7 weeks with one 84 or 104 Liner plant per container.

**8":** 5 – 9 weeks with one to two 84 or 104 Liner plants per container.

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

*Laguna™ Compact Blue with Eye may benefit from one additional week of crop time than the others.*

## 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 and keep a constant moderate moisture level for the first seven to 10 days to establish roots. Plants have already been pinched and no additional pinching should be needed, except in larger material at planting or a second pinch on plants for large containers. This second pinch can be given usually four to six weeks after planting.

## LIGHT/LIGHTING

These plants should be grown in a high light area of the greenhouse for optimal flowering and plant development. They will flower and finish fine under normal growing weather conditions for peak week sales. For earlier crop scheduling, daylength extension lighting should be provided to ensure success.

## GROWTH REGULATORS

A light spray application of Sumagic® (uniconazole) at 5ppm – 10ppm can be applied for both Laguna and Lucia® *Lobelia*, if required. A 1ppm Bonzi® (paclobutrazol) drench is also effective. Use PGRs only as needed with Compact Blue with Eye, and at the lower recommended rates. Caution should be taken when using Sumagic or Bonzi with Laguna Compact Blue with Eye, as it is quite responsive to these products.

For ease in growing, watering, and applying PGRs, Compact Blue with Eye can be grown with some separation from the other Laguna and Lucia *Lobelia*. It often requires less watering and PGR applications than the other *Lobelia*. Of the other *Lobelia*, Laguna White is probably the most vigorous and is a good indicator plant for PGR needs.

## PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

There should be little instance of disease if basic cultural guidelines are followed. Proper temperature, light levels, and water management will eliminate most disease issues. A broad spectrum fungicide such as Banrot® (etridiazole plus thiophanate-methyl) can be applied at transplant if desired. In poor growing conditions, Botrytis, Powdery Mildew or INSV can develop. Scout for Whiteflies, Thrips, and Aphids.

## OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

*Lobelias* 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. This recommendation is based on average spring weather and should be adjusted for unseasonably severe or unseasonably mild conditions.

## OTHER TIPS

- Proper soil pH levels should be maintained. If soil pHs reach 5.5 or lower, dark foliage color and plant stunting/distortion can occur.
- Cooler temperature and moderate moisture levels combined with high light will minimize PGR needs.
- Provide good air movement and space to minimize disease issues.
- Do not schedule for early season production without considering lighting for daylength manipulation.
- Growing too wet and cool, especially in poor weather conditions, can cause "purpling" of the foliage.



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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.