

Sutera (Bacopa)

Snowstorm®



NUTRITION

pH: 5.5 – 5.8

EC: (2:1 extraction method) .6 – .9

Feed constantly at 150ppm – 200ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix.

TEMPERATURE

Rooting out: 65 – 72 F

Growing on: 65 – 72 F

Holding: 55 – 60 F

WATERING

Maintain moderate soil moisture. Allow the soil to cycle from moist to slightly dry. Avoid both severe dry downs/wilting and long periods of wet soil, especially at cooler temperatures.

Suteras (Bacopa) often do not "wilt" when extremely dry. When too dry, their foliage normally turns from a lighter lush green appearance to a duller and darker appearance. Upon closer inspection, the foliage will show a withered appearance. Severe dry downs will lead to flower loss and possible root and stem disease. Excessive soil moisture can often lead to Botrytis and stem diseases.

TIMING

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

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

8": 7 – 9 weeks with one 84 or 104 Liner plant per container.

10" – 12" Hanging Basket: 9 – 11 weeks with three to five 84 or 104 Liner 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 once during the production cycle. Pinching should not be needed, except in the case of taller material at time of planting or a pinch on plants for larger containers. This pinch can be given for larger containers usually two to four weeks after planting.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

These plants should be grown in a medium to high light area of the greenhouse for optimal plant development. Additional lighting or daylength manipulation is not required.

GROWTH REGULATORS

If required, a spray application of B-Nine® (daminozide) at 500ppm is effective. Other materials such as Sumagic® (uniconazole), Bonzi® (paclobutrazol), Topflor® (flurprimidol), and Piccolo® (paclobutrazol) can be trialed, but *Suteras* are quite responsive to PGRs, and care should be given when using these "more powerful" products. Cooler growing temperatures and higher light quality can be very helpful at managing plant size. Also, plants can be trimmed/shaped as needed to control size and appearance.

PGR requirements vary greatly by variety. For best performance, grow plants together in these groups:

- 1) Snowstorm® Giant Snowflake® is the most vigorous and should require the most PGR attention. Additional space and watering will also be required.
- 2) Snowstorm Blue, Blue Bubbles, and Pink should require less water and fewer PGRs than Giant Snowflake.
- 3) Snowstorm® Snow Globe® should require little if any PGR applications. It is less vigorous, especially early in production, and is not nearly as trailing as the other *Sutera* varieties.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Follow basic cultural guidelines to avoid disease. Whiteflies, Thrips, and Spider Mites can be pests of concern.

OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

Sutera should be grown outdoors only after the danger of frost has passed (mid- to late May in Michigan). The foliage can be damaged from a very light frost.

OTHER TIPS

- Proper water management is very helpful to produce a quality plant. Avoid both extended periods of wet soil and severe dry downs. Scout for Thrips, Whiteflies, and Spider Mites. Provide proper humidity control and air movement. Tone with B-Nine.
- For combinations, select *Sutera* varieties that match the vigor of the other plants in the combination.



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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.