SPIRAEA

ZONE HARDINESS  4 – 9

NUTRITION
pH: 5.8 – 6.2
EC: (2:1 extraction method) 0.6 – 0.9
Moderate fertilization is recommended. 100ppm – 200ppm N.
Additional iron and manganese may be needed if chlorosis is observed.

TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners
Forcing/Growing on: 65 F Night – 72 F Day
Holding: 40 F Night – 50 F Day
Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to a frost protected open environment with good air movement. Crops will slow down in the heat of the summer.

WATERING
Moderate to moist: Water thoroughly without oversaturating, and keep moist during all stages of production. Spiraea suffer in quality when exposed to dry down. Keep watered adequately during the rooting in stage – especially during hot months.

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 these 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. Double Play® Gold may require two extra weeks of production time when planted from all sizes.
Quick Turn™ Liner to True 1 Gallon: 7 – 8 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 Liner in Week 20 for finishing in Week 28 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 summer is also a great way to finish a larger high-quality spring crop.

PLANTING
Spiraea perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium. But at the same time, they must always be kept moist.

When growing shrubs, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark-based media, as opposed to an annual growing mix 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
During early spring forcing, plants should be given high light. Crops should also be spaced in such a way 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
Spiraea benefit from frequent light pruning rather than hard pruning. Avoid pruning except for shape in the early spring. Once the plants have flowered, additional pruning for shape can resume. They will re-bloom if sheared after the first flush of color.

GROWTH REGULATORS
Pruning and trimming for shape are used mostly on Spiraea to control plant height after flowering. Cultural practices such as cooler holding temperatures, proper spacing and good air movement in an open environment can also help control plant height and assist in finishing a high-quality crop.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT
Aphids and Spider Mites are the most prevalent insect pests associated with Spiraea. Scout and spray preventatively in April/May to prevent outbreaks in June and July when Spider Mites are more actively growing. We recommend implementing a good IPM program as well as early releases of Biological Control, to help aid in the control of insect populations. Spray with a regular fungicide rotation to control Powdery Mildew as heavy spray may cause leaf burn.

SPECIAL NOTES
When growing larger containers like 3 gallons, it is best to bulk them in the summer/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 summer for next year’s spring sales.