

# Maracas Porphyrocoma

## Brazilian Fireworks

*Porphyrocoma pohliana*

**Approximate Seed Count:** 14,971 S./oz. (524 S./g)

### Plug production

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.1 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC less than 0.75 mmhos/cm with a 1:2 extraction).

#### Sowing

Sow 1 seed per cell in 400 to 288-cell trays. Cover the seed with coarse vermiculite.

**Stage 1--** Germination takes 4 to 5 days.

**Soil temperature:** 65 to 75°F (18 to 24°C)

**Light:** Germinates slightly better under dark conditions.

**Moisture:** Keep soil wet (level 4) during Stage 1.

**Humidity:** Maintain 100% relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

#### Stage 2

**Soil temperature:** 68 to 70°F (20 to 21°C)

**Light:** Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

**Moisture:** Reduce soil moisture slightly (level 3) to allow root to penetrate into the media.

**Fertilizer:** Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (less than 100 ppm N/less than 0.7 mS/cm EC) from nitrate-form fertilizers with low phosphorous.

#### Stage 3

**Soil temperature:** 66 to 68°F (19 to 20°C)

**Light:** Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

**Moisture:** Allow media to further dry so the surface becomes light brown (level 2) before watering. Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

**Fertilizer:** Increase fertilizer to rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC).

**Growth Regulators:** Not needed.

#### Stage 4

**Soil temperature:** 68 to 70°F (20 to 21°C)

**Light:** Up to 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

**Moisture:** Same as Stage 3.

**Fertilizer:** Same as Stage 3.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

#### Temperature

**Nights:** 66 to 68°F (19 to 20°C)

**Days:** 72 to 80°F (22 to 27°C)

**Maracas** Brazilian Fireworks is a heat-loving crop. The warmer the temperature is, the faster the crop time. The crop time will be significantly longer when grown in temperatures below 66°F (19°C). In addition, temperatures below 66°F (19°C) can cause the leaves to turn yellow and pucker.

#### Light

Provide shade when light level is above 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux). **Maracas** Brazilian Fireworks is a shade crop that can tolerate light levels as low as 1,500 f.c. (16,200 Lux). High light can cause leaf puckering.

#### Irrigation

Avoid both excessive watering and drought. Do not allow plants to wilt.

#### Fertilizer

Apply fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N/1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm EC) once a week from nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorus, alternated with balanced ammonium and nitrate form fertilizer as needed.

#### Growth Regulators

Growth regulators are not needed for height control, but Bonzi (paclobutrazol) spray at 3 to 5 ppm (0.75 to 1.25 ml/l, 0.4% formulation) will result in more silver-colored foliage and flowering about 2 weeks earlier than without treatment. Using a higher rate than 5 ppm (1.25 ml/l, 0.4% formulation) can induce puckering of the leaves. To determine the best rate for your conditions, we recommend that you conduct an in-house trial.

#### Pinching

Pinching is not needed.

### Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (400 to 288-cell plug tray): 5 to 6 weeks

### Transplant to saleable (foliage plant without flower)

Container Size	Plants per Pot/ Basket	Weeks from Transplant	Total Weeks
306 premium pack	1	7-8	12-14
4 to 4.5-in. (10 to 11-cm) pot	1	7-8	12-14
6 to 6.5-in. (15 to 16-cm) pot	3	7-9	12-15
Gallon	3	7-9	12-15

**Transplant to flower:** 10 to 14 weeks, depending on temperature. The warmer it is, the faster the crop time. The total crop time is similar to Tropic Flame Crossandra.

### Common Problems

No major problems have been observed.

PanAmerican Seed™

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