

# Royal Tapestry Alternanthera

*A. dentata*

**Approximate Seed Count:** 56,500 S./oz. (1,990 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 seed to 400 to 288-cell size trays. In Europe, it can be sown to 264-cell size trays. Do not cover seed.

**Stage 1** – Germination takes 2 to 3 days

**Soil temperature:** 64 to 75°F (18 to 24°C)

**Light:** Not required, but benefits seedling quality.

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

**Humidity:** Maintain 95%+ 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:** Start to slightly reduce soil moisture (level 4) to allow the roots 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 dry until 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, but B-Nine (daminozide) at 1,300 to 2,500 ppm (2.0 to 3.0g/l, 85% formulation or 2.5 to 4.0 g/l, 64% formulation) is beneficial.

### Stage 4

**Soil temperature:** 64 to 66°F (18 to 19°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:** 60 to 66°F (16 to 19°C)

**Days:** 63 to 72°F (17 to 22°C)

NOTE: Growing at lower temperatures makes plants stronger and more compact.

### Light

As high as possible if temperature can be controlled.

### 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.

### Growth Regulators

**In North American conditions:** A weekly spray of B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) at 5,000 ppm (5.9 g/l, 85% formulation or 7.8 g/l, 64% formulation) results in more compact plants and dark purple foliage.

For warmer areas, a Bonzi (paclobutrazol) 3 to 4 ppm (0.8 to 1.0ml/l, 0.4% formulation) drench 1 week after transplant works well.

**In Northern European conditions:** B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) at 1,600 to 2,500 ppm (2.0 to 3.0 g/l, 85% formulation or 2.5 to 4.0 g/l, 64% formulation) every 4 days works better.

### Pinching

Pinching is not needed.

### Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (400 to 288-cell plug tray): 4 to 5 weeks

### Transplant to finish:

Container Size	Plants Per Pot	Weeks From Transplant	Total Weeks
306 Premium Pack	1	6-7	10-11
4-4.5 in. (10-11 cm) pot	1	7-8	11-12
6-6.5 in. (15-16 cm) pot	2-3	7-8	11-12

### Common Problems

**Insect:** Aphids can cause loss of foliage color, and eventually result in leaf drop.

**Disease:** No known diseases

**Note:** Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

# PanAmerican Seed™

[PanAmSeed.com](http://PanAmSeed.com)

PanAmerican Seed Co.  
622 Town Road  
West Chicago, Illinois USA 60185-2698  
630 231-1400  
Fax: 630 231-3609

PanAmerican Seed Europe BV  
Lavendelweg 10  
NL-1435 EW Rijsenhout, Holland  
+31 (0)297-383038  
Fax: +31 (0)297-383036

™ denotes a trademark of and ® denotes a registered trademark of Ball Horticultural Company in the U.S. It may also be registered in other countries.

©2006 Ball Horticultural Company Printed in USA PAS06202 10/06