

## Coppertop Carex

*Carex dipsacea*

Approximate seed count (multi-seed pellet):  
**TBD (will need to be updated at later time)**

### Plug Production

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless media with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and an EC of 0.75 mmhos/cm (2:1 extraction).

#### Sowing

##### Plug Tray Size:

Can be produced in a 288, 128, 72 liner but prefer 288 cell size (European size: 264) or a similar size plug tray. Do not cover the seed.

**Stage 1** – Germination takes approximately 9-12 days

**Germination temperature:** 65 to 68°F (18 to 20°C)

**Light:** Light is required.

**Media moisture:** Keep the media medium wet (level 4) during germination.

**Relative humidity:** Maintain 95 to 97% relative humidity until cotyledons emerge.

#### Stage 2

**Temperature:** 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°C)

**Light:** Can be up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux).

**Media moisture:** Reduce soil moisture slightly (level 3) 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) with a nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorous. Maintain a media pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and EC at 0.5 to 0.7 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

#### Stage 3

**Temperature:** 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°C)

**Light:** Can be up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

**Media moisture:** Moisture level can be reduced to medium to medium dry (level 3 to 2). Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

**Fertilizer:** Increase the fertilizer rate to 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/ 0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC). Maintain a media pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and EC at 0.7 to 1.0 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

#### Stage 4

**Temperature:** 65 to 67°F (18 to 19°C)

**Light:** Can be up to 5,000 f.c. (54,000 Lux)

**Media Moisture:** Maintain wet/dry cycle. Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

**Fertilizer:** Keep the fertilizer rate to 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/ 0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC). Maintain a media pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and EC at 0.7 to 1.0 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

#### Growth Regulators

Not needed.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and an EC of 0.75 mmhos/cm.

#### Temperature

**Nights:** 64 to 66°F (18 to 19°C)

**Days:** 66 to 74°F (19 to 23°C)

Plants can be grown under temperatures as low as 50°F (10°C) but the crop time will increase significantly.

Foliage color is more reddish under cooler conditions with high light.

#### Light

As high as possible.

#### Irrigation

Grow plant on dry side. Do not keep media too wet.

#### Fertilizer

Starting a week after transplant, apply fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N/1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm) once a week from nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorus.

#### Growth Regulators

Not needed.

#### Pinching

Not needed.

#### Container Size

**306 premium pack:** 1 plug per cell

**2.5-in. (6-cm) pot:** 1 plug per pot

**4-in. (10-cm) pot:** 1 plug per pot

**6-in. (15-cm) pot:** 1 to 3 plugs per pot

**1-gallon (18-cm) pot:** 1 to 3 plugs per pot

## Crop Scheduling

### Sow to transplant (288/264-cell plug tray):

6 to 8 weeks

Add 3 to 4 more weeks when using 128 or 72 cell plug tray but reduce post-transplant crop time by 1 to 2 weeks.

### Transplant to saleable size (from 288 cell):

Container Size	Plants per Pot/Basket	Weeks from Transplant	Total Weeks
306 premium pack	1	10 to 12	16 to 18
2.5-in. (6-cm) pot	1	9 to 11	15 to 17
4 to 4.5-in. (10 to 11-cm) pot	1	10 to 12	16 to 18
6 to 6.5-in. (15 to 16-cm) pot	3	10 to 12	16 to 18
Gallon	3	10 to 12	16 to 18

Note: Add 2 more weeks to the crop time when planting 1 plug per 6-in. (16-cm) and gallon (18-cm) container.

## Common Problems

**Insects:** Sciara in young plug stage.

**Diseases:** No serious problems.

**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.

630 231-1400  
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