

Zephyr Deschampsia

D. elongata

Approximate Seed Count (multi-seed pellet):
4,876 S./oz. (172 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

Each multi-seed pellet will generally yield 3 to 4 plants. Can be produced in a 288, 128, 72 liner (European size: 264) or a similar size plug tray. Do not cover pellets.

Stage 1-- Germination takes 4-5 days.

Soil temperature: 65 to 71°F (18 to 22°C).

Light: Light is not required but benefit.

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

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

Stage 2

Soil temperature: 65 to 71°F (18 to 22°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 (< 100 ppm N / < 0.7 mS/cm EC) from nitrate form fertilizers with low phosphorous.

Stage 3

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

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

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

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

Growth Regulators: Not needed.

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 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.

Light

As high as possible while maintain moderate temperature.

Irrigation

Zephyr Deschampsia likes moist to wet medium. Do not allow plants to dry out, as this will cause the foliage to become yellow.

Fertilizer

Starting a week after transplant, apply fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225ppm N/1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm) once a week from nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorus. Avoid using excessive ammonia nitrogen-form fertilizers and overfeeding, as these will result in less upright plants. Maintain the media EC at 1.50 to 2.00 mS/cm and pH at 5.5 to 6.2.

Growth Regulators

Not needed.

Pinching

Pinching is 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):

4 to 5 weeks

Add one more week when use 128 or 72 cell plug tray but reduce post-transplant crop times by one week.

Transplant to saleable size (from 288 cell):

Container Size	Plants per Pot/Basket	Weeks from Transplant	Total Weeks
306 premium pack	1	6-7	10-12
2.5-in. (6-cm) pot	1	5-6	9-11
4 to 4.5-in. (10 to 11-cm) pot	1	6-7	10-12
6 to 6.5-in. (15 to 16-cm) pot	3	6-7	10-12
Gallon	3	6-7	10-12

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: No serious problems.

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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