

Diamonte™ Series Diascia

D. barberae

Approximate Seed Count: 113,200 – 169,800 seeds/ounce (4,000 – 6,000 seeds/gram)

Plug Production

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless plug media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2, and an EC of 0.75 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

Sowing

Diamonte Diascia is available in raw seed form; it is recommended to multi-sow Diamonte using 4 seeds per plug cell for better quality liner production. Diamonte can be produced in a 288-cell or similar size plug tray.

Stage 1 – Germination takes approximately 3 to 5 days.

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

Light: Light is not required for germination.

Moisture: Keep the media moisture at medium wet (level 4) during Stage 1

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

Stage 2

Soil Temperature: 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°C) days; 62 to 65°F (17 to 18°C) nights

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

Media Moisture: Keep the media moisture at medium (level 3) to medium wet (level 4).

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 phosphorus.

Stage 3

Soil Temperature: 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°C) days; 62 to 65°F (17 to 18°C) nights

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

Media Moisture: Keep the media moisture medium dry (level 2) to medium (level 3) during Stages 3 and 4.

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).

Plant Growth Regulators

Generally not required for plug production, but if necessary can apply a foliar spray of B-nine/Alar (daminozide) at 2,500 ppm (3.0 g/l of 85% formulation or 4.0 g/l of 64% formulation) once at about 3 weeks after sowing to tone the plugs.

Note: Do not use Plant Growth Regulators before the radicle emergence as this can delay or stop germination.

Stage 4

Soil Temperature: 65 to 68°F (18 to 20°C) days; 60°F (16°C) nights

Light: Light levels can be up to 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux) if temperatures can be maintained.

Media Moisture: Same as Stage 3

Fertilizer: Same as Stage 3.

Growing On to Finish

Container Size: 306-packs, 4 to 4.5-in. (10 to 11-cm), 6-in. (15-cm) and 1-gallon pots

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

Temperature

Night: 55 to 60°F (13 to 16°C)

Day: 62 to 70°F (17 to 21°C)

Diascia perform best at cool temperatures.

Light

Keep light levels as high as possible while maintaining the optimal temperatures.

Fertilizer

Starting a week after transplant, apply fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N/1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm) using predominately nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorus. Maintain the media EC at 1.5 to 2.0 mS/cm and pH at 5.8 to 6.2.

Irrigation

Maintain optimal media moisture, i.e. not too wet or too dry.

Plant Growth Regulators

PGRs are generally not required, especially when grown under cool temperatures, as temperatures can be the best natural growth-controlling factor.

But when producing the crop under warmer temperatures and if needed, you can apply a foliar spray of B-nine/Alar (daminozide) at 5,000 ppm (5.9 g/l of 85% formulation or 7.8 g/l of 64% formulation) after transplant. First application can be done at 7-10 days after transplant and second can be done a week later. Bonzi (paclobutrazol) foliar spray at 10 ppm (2.5 ml/l, 0.4% formulation) applied once at 7-10 days after transplant also works well.

Note: Use caution when using Bonzi on Diascia, as it is very responsive to this PGR.

Pinching

Pinching is not required, as the multi-sown plugs will finish naturally well.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant: It takes approximately 4 weeks to finish a 288-cell size plug.

Transplant to finish:

Container Size	Plugs per Pack/Pot	Weeks from Transplant	Total weeks from sow
306-pack	1	6-8	10-12
4 to 4.5-in. (10 to 11-cm) pot	1	7-9	11-13
6-in. (15-cm) pot	3	7-9	11-13
Gallon	3	7-9	11-13

Common Problems

Insects: Check/monitor for Thrips as they can spread INSV.

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.

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