

Fuseables™ Lobelia

Lobelia erinus

Approximate seed count (multi-pelleted seed): 14,000 to 17,000 S./oz. (500 to 600 S./g)

Plug Production

Media

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

Sowing

Lobelia Fuseables can be produced in a 288, 105/128, 72 liner (European size: 128) or similar size plug tray. Cover the seed lightly with coarse vermiculite.

Stage 1 – Germination takes approximately 5 to 6 days.

Germination temperature: 68 to 73°F (20 to 23°C).

Light: Light is optional.

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 70°F (20 to 21°C).

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

Media moisture: Keep the media medium (level 3) to medium wet (level 4) during Stage 2.

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: 65 to 67°F (18 to 19°C).

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

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).

Avoid excess humidity later in the plug production, as this will create conditions favorable for disease incidence.

Stage 4

Temperature: 62 to 64°F (16 to 17°C).

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

Media moisture: Moisture level can be reduced to medium to medium dry (level 3 to 2). 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 5.8 to 6.2 and an EC of 0.75 mmhos/cm.

Temperature

Nights: 50 to 61°F (10 to 16°C).

Days: 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C).

Lobelia Fuseables perform best in moderate climates. Growing under recommended temperature range will result in better-tuned products. Warmer temperatures could cause plants stretch.

Light

As high as possible, while maintaining moderate temperature. Provide shade to reduce temperature under warmer conditions.

Photoperiod

Lighting plants when days are shorter than 12 hours speeds flowering.

Irrigation

Avoid both excessive watering and drought.

Fertilizer

Lobelias are light to moderate feeders and perform best when a complete fertilizer is used at rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm). Reduce fertilizer rate at the end of the crop to keep the plants compact.

Growth Regulators

Generally, PGRs are not needed. If necessary, B-Nine/Alar (daminozide) at 2,500 to 5,000 ppm (3.0 to 6.0 g/l 85% formulation or 4.0 to 8.0 g/l of 64% formulation) with 1 application applied 2 weeks after transplant should be sufficient.

Pinching

Pinching is not needed.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (288-cell plug tray):

4 to 5 weeks

Sow to transplant (128/105-cell plug tray or 72 liner):

5 to 6 weeks

Container size	Plants per pot or basket	Weeks from transplant to finish from 288	Weeks from sow to finish from 288
4.5-in. (12-cm) pot	1	6	11
6 to 6.5-in. (15 to 16-cm) pot	1	6	11
12-in. (30-c.) hanging basket	5	6-8	11-13

Crop time can be reduced 1 to 2 weeks if transplanted from larger cells of 128/105 or 72 liner.

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.