

Salvia interspecific Big Blue

(*Salvia longispicata x farinacea*)

Annuals Culture (revised 01/23/21)

The name says it all!

Big Blue salvia is exactly that – a vigorous flowering annual in a sales-inspiring clear blue colour. *The first of its type from seed*, this big beauty will pump up mid-Summer sales in large containers. Super easy and super showy for both landscapers and home gardeners for their back-of-border plantings, sending out blue spires continuously from July to first frost with little to no extra care.

Plug crop time (288 tray): 4 weeks

Transplant to finish: 8 to 13 weeks, depending on light, heat and daylength conditions

- Great performer in heat and low-water conditions.
- Low-maintenance plant does not need deadheading.
- Hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and more flock to Big Blue in the garden.
- At its best in full sun, but will tolerate dappled shade or partial sun.

General Information

Exposure	Bloom Season	Height	Spread	Spacing
Sun	Summer, Late Summer, Autumn	24-36 in. (61-91 cm)	18-20 in. (46-51 cm)	16-18 in. (41-46 cm)

Germination

Seed Form	Recommended Plug Size	Seeds/Cell	Plug Crop Weeks	Days to Germinate	Initial Media pH/EC (1:2)	Cover Seed
RAW	288 128	1 1	3-4 4-5	4	5.5-5.8 pH 0.75 mmhos/cm	Optional

Plug Production

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Moisture	Level 4	Level 3-4	Level 2-4	Level 2-3
Temperature	68-77°F (20-25°C)	68-77°F (20-25°C)	68-72°F (20-22°C)	62-65°F (17-18°C)
Light	Optional	1,500-2,500 f.c. (16,100-26,900 Lux)	3,000 f.c. (32,300 Lux)	3,000 f.c. (32,300 Lux)
Fertilizer		Less than 100 ppm N (Less than 0.7 EC)	Less than 100 ppm N (Less than 0.7 EC)	Less than 100 ppm N (Less than 0.7 EC)

PGR daminozide/2,500 ppm/Spray

Propagation Key Tips

Salvia Big Blue is responsive to daminozide 2,500 ppm spray, or ancymidol 5 ppm spray, or paclobutrazol 5 ppm spray. Recommended first application 2 weeks after sow, and repeat in 7-10 days as needed. Rates recommended are for the Midwest, and will need to be adjusted for your location and conditions. Lighting the plug when growing under low DLI and short days (with supplemental and daylength extension) will hasten flower initiation.

Growing on to Finish

Growing on Temperature	Target Media pH/EC (1:2)	Fertilizer	Daylength
(day) 68-78°F (20-26°C) (night) 64-68°F (18-20°C)	5.8-6.2 pH 1.2-1.5 mmhos/cm	175 to 225 ppm N (1.2 to 1.5 EC)	Facultative Long Day

Daylength Notation

Facultative intermediate-day flowering response with fastest flowering at 14 and 15 hours. At ≤ 13 hours, flowering delayed by ~3 weeks than at 14 and 15 hours. At ≥ 16 hours and night interruption, flowering delayed by ~1 week than at 14 and 15 hours.

Crop Scheduling

Container Size	Plugs/Pot	Crop Time	Season	PGR
5"/6"/1 Gallon	1 (ppp)	13-14 (weeks)	Late Spring	daminozide 2,500 ppm Spray
5"/6"/1 Gallon	1 (ppp)	12-13 (weeks)	Summer	daminozide 2,500 ppm Spray

Finishing Key Tips

Production of Salvia Big Blue needs to be pinched at 14-21 days after transplant, leaving 4 nodes. Finishing in gallons preferred for late Spring and Summer for easiest finish in the best daylength for flowering in season. May be finished in smaller pot sizes without flowers in 9 weeks for fast landscape input use. Lighting is still recommended for this finish, to set buds before sale. Repeat PGR treatments in finish as needed. Paclobutrazol may be used instead of daminozide in final stages, starting 3 weeks after transplant, at rates of 3-5 ppm drench (northern U.S.).

NOTE: Growers should use the information presented here as guidelines only. PanAmerican Seed recommends that growers conduct a trial of products under their own conditions. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. It is the responsibility of the grower to confirm the treatment is available in their region as well as read and follow all the current label directions relating to the products. Nothing herein shall be deemed a warranty or guaranty by PanAmerican Seed of any products listed herein. PanAmerican Seed's terms and conditions of sale shall apply to all products listed herein.

Variety Pictures



Big Blue



Big Blue



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