

Diascia Diamonte F1 Series

Diascia Diamonte has a better branching, free flowering, cascading habit, perfect for baskets and patio containers. Good uniform habit and timing. Ideal for high density production in 9 – 10.5cm pots and packs.

Sowing and Media

- Use a well-drained, disease-free, soil-less medium.
- Maintain a media pH of 5.6 to 6.2.
- Ec 0.75mg/mSm/cm
- Diascia Diamonte is available in raw seed form: it is recommended to multi-sow Diamonte using 4 seeds per call plug for better liner production.
- Germination takes approximately 3-5 days at temperature 20-21°C
- Light is not required for germination
- It is important to keep the media moist at the seedling stage.
- Maintain relative humidity of 95-97% until the cotyledons emerge.

Temperature

- Early growing on temperature 20-22°C days with a night temperature of 17-18°C.
- Finishing growing temperature should be set at 17-21°C day and night temperature of 13-16°C

Light

- Low light levels promote stem stretch.

Watering

- Diascia are susceptible to *Botrytis* – avoid high humidity and wet foliage.
- When plants are young, allow the media to dry slightly between watering.

Fertiliser

- Use constant feed with a balanced fertiliser at 175 – 225ppm with additional iron as needed.
- A full complement of minor elements should be provided at each fertiliser application.
- Use clear water with every third watering if high soluble salt problems occur.

Pot size

9 – 11cm

Pinching

Pinching is not required

Controlling growth

- The best way to control the growth of Diascia is to grow the crop cool, provide bright light and apply moderate, regular water stress to promote flowering and reduce unwanted vegetative growth.
- To control growth and improve flowering and habit, growers can use foliar applications Daminozide.
- Use of PGR's can delay flowering by 1 to 2 weeks. Avoid spraying once flower buds appear.
- Do not use plant growth regulators before the radicle emergence as this can delay or stop germination.

Common problems

Insects: Aphid, Thrip, Whitefly, Sciarid Flies.

Diseases: *Botrytis*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Pythium*

Crop time

Container size: 9-10.5cm Pot

Plugs per pot: 1

Weeks from Transplant: 7-9

Total week from sow: 11-13

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Problems	Causes
Plant collapse	Wet media for an extended period (<i>Pythium</i>) Planting too deeply (<i>Rhizoctonia</i>)
Delayed flowering	Late application of growth regulators
Excessive vegetative growth	Higher than recommended air temperatures Over fertilisation under low light conditions Low light levels and over watering; wet media
Poor branching	Low fertilisation; lack of nitrogen
Stretched plants	Low light levels, excess water, higher than recommended air temperatures
Chlorosis	Iron deficiency High pH Nitrogen deficiency Over watering

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