

# Culture Information

## Salvia Big Blue

**Big vigorous plants with intense blue flowers fill out quickly, adding height to garden borders and containers.**

**Great for early summer sales and flowers continuously up until the first frost.**

**Bees and butterflies lock-in to Big Blue in the garden.**

**Low maintenance, does not need dead-heading.**

**Great performer in heat and low water conditions.**

**Height 61-91cm, spread 45-51cm**

### Media

- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum.
- Salvia Big Blue prefers a well-drained soil with as much air space as is practical.

### Temperature

Day: 21 – 26°C

Night: 17 – 19°C

### Light

- Salvia Big Blue is a Facultative Long Day plant, flowering faster over 14 hr days, but will flower eventually under shorter daylengths.
- The crop times suggested on this culture sheet assume 14hr days are provided.
- For an early crop daylength extension would need to be given in the plug stage.
- Plants will stretch at low light intensities and branching will be reduced.

### Watering

- Keep growing media moderately moist. Allow the media to dry between watering's.
- If the media stays too wet, plants will stretch.

### Fertiliser

- Salvia Big Blue has a moderate fertiliser requirement.
- Apply a balanced NPK feet at every watering from 10 - 14 days after potting

### Controlling growth

- Maintain recommended temperatures and light levels to avoid stretch.
- Wet media will cause stretching and produce weak growth.
- Salvia Big Blue is responsive to Daminozide, Depending on climate and pot size, 2 or 3 applications.
- A 'soft pinch' leaving 4 nodes 6 weeks after sowing (2 weeks after transplanting) is recommended. Too late and too deep will delay flowering by about 4 weeks and create an unbalanced plant.

### Common problems

**Insects:** Thrips, Aphids, Whitefly Sciarid fly.

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

All Salvia Big Blue cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock.

### Crop time

10 - 12 weeks in 12 – 13cm pots from a Ball 84 plug.

About 1 week more on larger containers.

Buds will develop about 9-10 weeks after sowing (approx. 4 weeks after potting).

First colour will appear 14-15 weeks after sowing (approx. 9 weeks after potting)

Problems	Causes
Plant collapse	Stem canker ( <i>Phoma</i> ) Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time ( <i>Pythium</i> )
Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers	Excessive ammonia nitrogen in fertiliser Low light and over watering; saturated media
Poor branching and thin plants	Low fertilisation during early stages of growth; low light
Yellowing of foliage	Excessive moisture in soil Low micro nutrients

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.