GrowerFacts

Ball®

Alyssum Species Wulfenianum
(*Alyssum wulfenianum*)

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.80 to 1.0 mmhos and a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.
- Stick cuttings the day of arrival if possible. Otherwise, store at 45?F (7°C) for not more than 18 hours before sticking.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 70 to 72?F (21 to 24?C) until roots are visible.
- A rooting hormone of 500 ppm IBA should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Mist at moderate levels for the first 24 to 48 hours to rehydrate cuttings. Avoid over-application of mist after this period. Alyssum 'Golden Spring' roots best under low mist regimes.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N when roots become visible.
- During root development, maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media. This Alyssum roots poorly when soil media is saturated.
- Pinching once in the propagation tray at 35 days after sticking will promote a well-branched finished plant.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 35 to 42 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media
- Use media with good aeration and drainage.
- Prefers a medium that is high in organic matter.
- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum.

Temperature
- **Nights:** 55 to 65°F (13 to 18°C)
- **Days:** 60 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 60°F (16°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of warm temperatures.
- Vernalization is required to flower – 7 to 10 weeks of night temperatures below 45°F (7°C). We have had success vernalizing in greenhouse conditions and outdoors in Athens, Georgia.

Light
- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Finish Alyssum outside under full sun conditions for best quality.

Watering

The media should be allowed to dry slightly between watering and never saturated. However, plants should not be allowed to wilt at any time.

Leach regularly to avoid the buildup of high soluble salt levels.

Fertilizer
Use a balanced fertilizer at a rate of 125 to 150 ppm. Periodic use of a calcium-based fertilizer should help optimize the nutrient levels.

Pinching
Plants should be pinched once in the propagation tray and can be pinched a second time 1 to 2 weeks after transplant to create very full plants.

Controlling Growth
Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments.

Common Problems

Insects: None noted.

Diseases: None noted.

Problems: Plant collapse

Cause: Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (Pythium); Rooted cuttings transplanted too deeply

Problems: Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers

Cause: • Excessive ammonium-based fertilizer; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light and over-watering; saturated media

Problems: Yellowing of mature foliage

Cause: Saturated media

Problems: Foliage necrosis

Cause: High soluble salts in media; Excessive water stress; Pesticide application

Problems: Poor branching and thin plants

Cause: Low fertilization during early stages of growth; Low light conditions

Crop Schedule & Uses
(Crop Schedule in Weeks. Summer planting is recommended)

1 PPP* 1-qt. (10-cm) Pot
Unrooted cutting Stick Weeks 30 - 35

Rooted cutting Plant Weeks 35 - 40

1 PPP* 1-gal. (15-cm) Pot
Unrooted cutting Stick Weeks 26 - 32

Rooted cutting Plant Weeks 31 - 36

3 PPP* 2 to 3-gal. (25 to 30-cm) Pot

Unrooted cutting Stick Weeks 22 - 26

Rooted cutting Plant Weeks 27 - 31

*PPP: Plants per pot

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.