

Verbena bonariensis **Finesse®**

Vervain

Culture guide

Uses:

Pot and container plants, plants for window boxes, bedding, plants for planting in bowls, cut flower production

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

47" / 120 cm

Crop time:

12-14 weeks

Sow time:

February-April

Sowing method:

3-5 seeds per plug

Germination:

Germinates in 14-21 days at 72-75 °F (22-24 °C). Cover seed lightly with vermiculite after sowing.

Growing On:

Transplant plugs after 5 weeks. Grow on at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C). Vernalization is not required for flower initiation. Reseeds freely.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 20-30 % clay, 1-1,5 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 0-2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-6 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.5-6.0. Field: humus, sandy loamy soils with good drainage. If necessary improve the soil with peat. Standard fertilization: 60- 80 g/m² of a slow release fertilizer.

Temperature:

Grow at 14-18 °C. For early selling the plants should be hardened slowly at 10-12 °C for 14 days. Verbena does not tolerate frost.

Fertilization:

High fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 200-250 ppm nitrogen (at 0 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using alternating a calcium nitrate fertilizer and a potassium balanced fertilizer (N: K₂O-ratio: 1:1,5). Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Take care of a good potassium level in substrate. A good potassium nutrition decreases the risk of fungi infection, because the plant tissues get a high stability. The colour of the foliage and flowers is improved, too.

Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times.