

Lobelia speciosa **Fan® Scarlet**

Lobelia

Culture guide

Uses:

Perennial for border and cottage garden, container plant, bedding, cut flower plants

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

24" / 60 cm

Crop time:

18-20 weeks

Sow time:

January-March for flowering in pots from July onwards, August-October for flowering in pots the following year, April-May for cut flower production outdoors

Sowing method:

1 seed per plug for short day conditions
3-5 seeds per plug for long day conditions, because in long day the plants do not form a leaf rosette.

Germination:

10-14 days at 70 °F (21 °C), do not cover seeds, maintain high humidity

Growing On:

Transplant plugs after 10 weeks. Transplant one plant into a 4-6" (10-15 cm) pot, or 2-3 plants in a 6" (15 cm) or larger container. Apply a well balanced fertilizer every 2 weeks. Grow on at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C). Vernalization is not required for flower initiation.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing perennial substrate with 0-15 % clay, 1-1,5 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 2-3 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-9 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 6.0-7.0. Field: humus, sandy humus soils with a good drainage. Standard fertilization: 80-100 g/m² of a slow release fertilizer.

Temperature:

Grow at 15-18 °C, later decrease the temperature to 10-15 °C when the roots development in pots should be very good. Cultivation outdoors is possible, too. In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C or outdoors. Outdoors fleece cover needed. *L. speciosa* are very sensitive to strong frost temperatures. In spring the plants start to grow at 15-18 °C and long day. Cold temperatures at 10-12 °C will increase the cultivation time. A chilling period (vernalization) for flower initiation is not required.

Fertilization:

Moderate-high fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 150-200 ppm nitrogen (at 0 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Don't fertilize after mid September. In spring fertilize with 100-150 ppm nitrogen of a complete balanced fertilizer. 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. Field: If necessary according to analysis, improve the soil with 80-100 g/m² of a slow release fertilizer per year, applied in several portions.