

Delphinium grandiflorum ***Blue Mirror***

Chinese Delphinium, Larkspur

Culture guide

Uses:

Bedding and border plants, pot and container plants

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

20" / 50 cm

Crop time:

16-20 weeks

Sow time:

Annual forcing: December-May; Perennial forcing: Mid August-Mid September including wintering

Sowing method:

2-3 seeds per plug

Germination:

14-18 days at temperatures of 68-72 °F (20-22 °C), cover seed lightly and maintain constant humidity levels. Stage II: gradually lower temperatures to 64-68 °F (17-20 °C). Stage III & IV: begin light fertilization at 50-75 ppm nitrate nitrogen. Use low rates of phosphorus during plug production.

Growing On:

Transplant plugs 6-8 weeks after sowing. Finish at 45-75 °F (7-24 °C)

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 10-30 % clay, 0-15 % parts (e.g. bark, sand perlite) 1-2 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 2-4 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-9 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.8-6.5.

Temperature:

Grow at 13-16 °C or outdoors. In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C or outdoors. Outdoor fleece cover and dry substrate needed. In spring the plants start to grow for 8-10 weeks at 15-20 °C. Temperatures below 13 °C in combined with short day is a cause for rosette leaf formation and inhibition of the flower initiation.

Fertilization:

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 80-100 ppm nitrogen (at 2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Don't fertilize after flowering or after mid September. In spring fertilize with 130-150 ppm nitrogen using 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. The fertilization with slow release fertilizer is favour as against with complete balanced fertilizer, because the roots are very sensitive to high salt levels in substrates. Avoid high fertilizer concentrations, it is advisable to fertilize several times with low concentrations weekly.