

## ***Heuchera sanguinea*** ***Ruby Bells***

Alum Root, Coral Bells

### ***Culture guide***

#### **Uses:**

Wintergreen plants for border and rock garden, pot and container plants, plants attractive for bees and butterflies, cut flower production, ornamental leaf production

#### **Exposure:**

Partial shade - Shade

#### **Garden height:**

16" / 40 cm

#### **Crop time:**

8-10 months

#### **Sow time:**

December-April for green pots, June-August for flowering in pots the following year

#### **Sowing method:**

3-5 seeds per plug

#### **Germination:**

10-20 days at temperatures of 68-72 °F (20-22 °C), keep relative humidity levels near 95 %. Stage II & Stage III maintain temperatures between 65-70 °F (18-21°C). Stage II relative humidity should remain near 95 % and gradually lowered during Stage III. Begin feeding at 50-75 ppm nitrogen in a well balanced mix at Stage III. Stage IV temperatures can be lowered gradually to tone plants. Large plugs can be vernalized.

#### **Growing On:**

Transplant plugs after 9 weeks. Grow on at 55-60 °F (13-15 °C). Vernalization is required for flower initiation. After vernalization, begin forcing plants at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C) under long days for 7-8 weeks.

#### **Media:**

Use a well-drained, growing perennial substrate with 0-15 % clay, 0-15 % parts (e.g. bark, wood fibres), 1-1,5 kg/m<sup>3</sup> complete balanced fertilizer, 2-3 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer (3-9 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 6.0-6.5. Field: sandy humus soils with good drainage. Standard fertilization: 50-80 g/m<sup>2</sup> of a slow release fertilizer.

#### **Temperature:**

Grow at 15-18 °C or outdoors. In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C or outdoors. Outdoor fleece cover needed. In spring the plants start to grow for 9-12 weeks at 10-18 °C. Warm temperatures will decrease the cultivation time. A chilling period (vernalization) is required for flower initiation.

**Fertilization:**

High fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 130-150 ppm nitrogen (at 3 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer in substrate), using alternating a potassium balanced fertilizer (N: K<sub>2</sub>O-ratio: 1:1,5) and a calcium nitrate fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Don't fertilize after mid September. In spring fertilize 130-150 ppm nitrogen of a complete balanced fertilizer (N: K<sub>2</sub>O-ratio: 1:1,5). Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency (above pH 6.0) apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times. Very high nitrogen levels can be cause that the leaves fall apart and that the application of growth regulators will become necessary. Field: If necessary according to analysis, improve the soil with 50-80 g/m<sup>2</sup> of a slow release fertilizer, applied in several portions.