

Lobelia erinus

Mix Palace

Edging Lobelia

Culture guide

Uses:

beds, borders, containers and color bowls

Exposure:

Partial shade

Garden height:

5" / 12 cm

Crop time:

9-11 weeks

Sowing method:

7-10 seeds or 1 multipellet per plug (multi-seed pellets produce an average of 5-7 seedlings per pellet)

Germination:

Stage I: 4-7 days at 70-75 °F (21-24 °C), in media with very low soluble salt levels and pH 5.5-6.5. Requires light for germination. Do not cover seeds. If pellets are used, ensure that the pellets are well-watered to allow them to dissolve. Keep soil slightly moist but not wet. Long day (12-14 h) during germination decreases the cultivation time and flowering will be earlier. Avoid direct sunlight by shading seeds after sowing.

Growing On:

4-5 weeks after sowing, transplant into packs or pot 6-10 cm (2,5-4").

Media:

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH 5.2 -5.8.

Temperature:

Grow at night temperatures of 12-15 °C (54-59 °F) and day 17 -20 °C (63-68 °F). After development of the roots temperature can be further decreased. Before selling harden the plants by decreasing the temperature to 6-8 °C (43-46 °F). *Lobelia erinus* does not tolerate frost.

Fertilization:

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 150-200 ppm nitrogen, using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Wetness and cold medium temperatures are a cause for iron deficiency. The roots are sensitive to high salt levels in substrates. Avoid high fertilizer concentrations, it is advisable to fertilize several times with low concentrations weekly. Reduce fertilizer rate at the end of the crop to keep the plants compact.