

Melampodium paludosum **Showstar®**

Melampodium

Culture guide

Uses:

Plants for the border and window boxes, pot and container plants, marsh plant

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

10" / 25 cm

Crop time:

12-14 weeks

Sow time:

February-May

Sowing method:

1-2 seeds per plug

Germination:

7-14 days at 65-68 °F (18-20 °C). Cover seed lightly after sowing. Maintain high, but not saturated soil moisture levels, and 95 % relative humidity levels.

Growing On:

Transplant into pack or 4" (10 cm) pots with media having 5.5 to 6.5 pH. Media should have good moisture holding capacity. Apply 100-150 ppm nitrogen weekly in a well-balanced formula.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 20-30 % clay, 1,5 kg/m³ of a complete balanced fertilizer, iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.8-6.5.

Temperature:

Grow at 16-18 °C. The lower the cultivation temperature, the longer the cultivation time. In order to harden the plants for selling the temperature can be decreased to 12-14 °C. Melampodium does not tolerate temperatures below 10 °C.

Fertilization:

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 100-150 ppm nitrogen, using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium levels and high nitrogen levels. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,025 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency (above pH 6.0) apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times.