

Penstemon digitalis ***Mystica***

Foxglove Beardtongue, Smooth Penstemon

Culture guide

Uses:

Plants for border and landscape, container plants for patio, plants attract bees and butterflies, cut flower production

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

30" / 75 cm

Crop time:

8-10 months

Sow time:

January-March for green pots; June-August for flowering in pots the following year

Sowing method:

1 seed per plug

Germination:

10-15 days at 68-72 °F (20-22 °C). Cover seed lightly with coarse vermiculite and maintain moist but not saturated soil moisture levels

Growing On:

Transplant plugs 5-8 weeks after sowing into a well drained media with a pH between 6.2-6.8. Grow on at 55-65 °F (13-18 °C). Fertilize weekly at 200 ppm nitrate nitrogen in a 2-1-2 ratio mix. Plants require vernalization to flower.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 15-30 % clay, 0-20 % parts (e.g. bark, perlite, sand), 1,5-3 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 0-3 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-9 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.8-6.2. Field: sandy humus soils with good drainage.

Standard fertilization: 80-100 g/m² of a slow release fertilizer.

Temperature:

Grow at 13-18 °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 at 13-18 °C. A chilling period (vernalization) is required for flower initiation. *P. digitalis* can also be made to flower earlier in the polytunnel.

Fertilization:

High fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 100-150 ppm nitrogen (at 3 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 100-150 ppm nitrogen of a potassium balanced fertilizer (N: K₂O-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. Field: If necessary according to analysis, improve the soil with 80-100 g/m² of a slow release fertilizer, applied in several portions. Take care of a good micro nutrition supply to the plants.