

Senecio cineraria ***Silverdust***

Dusty Miller

Culture guide

Uses:

Attractive ornamental leaf plant, plants for border, plants for graves, plants for autumn planting

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

8" / 20 cm

Crop time:

8-11 weeks

Sow time:

February-July

Sowing method:

1 seed per plug

Germination:

10-20 days at 72-75 °F (22-24 °C). Light is required for germination.

Growing On:

Transplant plugs after 6-7 weeks. Grow on at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C). Keep foliage dry and avoid watering late in the day to reduce the risk of Alternaria.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 20-30 % clay, 1-3 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.5-6.0.

Temperature:

Grow at 10-18 °C. When the roots are developed, the temperature can be decreased slowly to 10-16 °C. In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C. In spring the plants start to grow at 10-18 °C. A chilling period (vernalization) is required for flower initiation. Senecio does tolerate moderate frost temperatures.

Fertilization:

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 100-150 ppm nitrogen, using complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Very high nitrogen levels in substrate can cause shoot stretching and the shoots fall apart. 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.