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Penstemon digitalis

## Mystica

- Mystical beauty best describes the season long elegance of Penstemon Mystica
- Beginning with bronze rosettes in the early spring, Mystica develops multiple flower stems with exceptionally large light lavender pink flowers during the early summer
- Fall brings yet another treat as the foliage turns to a rich red color
- At 28-32" (70-80 cm) tall in the garden, Mystica adds a stately grace to the perennial garden
- Requiring vernalization, this classic perennial blooms for an extended period during the early summer months
- Long lived, Mystica thrives in a wider range of soil types than most Penstemons

- Mystica attracts butterflies and hummingbirds into the perennial garden and is long lasting as a cut flower

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### **Crop Time**

Spring: 8 - 10 months

### **Height**

30 ? / 75 cm

### **Exposure**

Sun - Partial shade

### **Seed Form**

ApeX

### **Heat Zone**

9 - 1

### **Hardiness Zone**

4 - 8

### **Best Uses**

Bedding, Cutflower

## **Culture guide**

### **Usage**

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

### **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/m<sup>3</sup> complete balanced fertilizer, 0-3 kg/m<sup>3</sup> 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/m<sup>2</sup> 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/m<sup>3</sup> 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: K?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. Field: If necessary according to analysis, improve the soil with 80-100 g/m<sup>2</sup> of a slow release fertilizer, applied in several portions. Take care of a good micro nutrition supply to the plants.

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Stage I Starts with the radicle breaking through the testa. The roots are touching the medium. Ends with fully developed cotyledons.

Stage II Starts from fully developed cotyledons. Ends with the fully developed true leaf or true leaf pair.

Stage III Starts from the fully developed true leaf or true leaf pair and ends with 80% of the young plants being marketable.

Stage IV All young plants are ready for sale and in the process of being hardened off. This stage lasts about 7 days.

The cultural recommendations are based on results from trials conducted under Central European conditions. Different conditions in other parts of the world may lead to deviations in results achieved.

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