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Verbena speciosa

# Imagination®

- Delicate, profusely branching stems
- Small deep violet blue flowers
- Chemical free primed for eco-friendly production

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## **Crop Time**

Spring: 12 - 14 weeks

## **Height**

12 ? / 30 cm

## **Exposure**

Sun - Partial shade

## **Seed Form**

BeGreen Priming

## **Best Uses**

Bedding, Hanging basket

## **Culture guide**

### **Usage**

Pot and container plants, plants for window boxes, bedding, plants for hanging basket, a good ground cover

### **Sow time**

Mid January-End March

## **Sowing method**

2-3 seeds per plug

## **Germination**

14-21 days at 70-75 °F (21-24 °C). Cover seed lightly with vermiculite after sowing.

## **Growing on**

Transplant plugs after 5 weeks. Grow on at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C).

## **Media**

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 20-30 % clay, 1-1,5 kg/m<sup>3</sup> complete balanced fertilizer, 0-2 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer (3-6 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.5-6.0. For hanging basket production the application of a slow release fertilizer is recommended.

## **Temperature**

Grow at 16-18 °C. For early selling the plants should be hardened slowly at 10-15 °C for 14 days. *Verbena speciosa* does not tolerate frost.

## **Fertilization**

High fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 250-350 ppm nitrogen (at 0 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer in substrate), using alternating a calcium nitrate fertilizer and a potassium balanced fertilizer (N: K<sub>2</sub>O-ratio: 1:1,5). Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Take care of a good potassium level in substrate. A good potassium nutrition decreases the risk of fungi infection, because the plant tissues get a high stability. The color of the foliage is improved, too. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times.

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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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