

Snow CrystalsTM Alyssum

Plant a Beautiful Blanket of Snow That Never Melts!

- The first tetraploid alyssum has large, pure white, scented flowers for outstanding sales appeal.
- The unique tetraploid nature adds heat tolerance, making it the premier garden-performing alyssum.
- Winner of the Fleuroselect Gold Medal.
- Alyssum finish best when they are multi-sown into the pack or plugs. Sow 3 to 5 seeds per cell. Do NOT singulate at transplant.

Lobularia maritima

Approximate Seed Count: 76,000 S./oz. (2,650 S./g)

Plug Production

Stage 1 – Time of radicle emergence (2 to 3 days)

- Soil temperature 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C).
- Keep media very moist, near saturation.
- A light cover will help uniform germination and dissolve pellet.
- Light at 100 to 400 f.c. (1,000 to 4,000 Lux) may be beneficial for germination.
- Soil pH 5.5 to 5.8 and soluble salts (EC) less than 0.75 mmhos/cm (2:1 extraction).
- Alyssum is very sensitive to high salts, particularly high ammonium, during germination.

Stage 2 – Stem and cotyledon emergence (5 to 7 days)

- Soil temperature 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C).
- Reduce moisture levels once radicle emergence occurs. Allow the soil to dry out slightly before watering for best germination and rooting.
- Keep soil pH 5.5 to 5.8 and EC less than 0.75 mmhos/cm.
- Keep ammonium levels less than 10 ppm.
- Begin fertilizing with 50 to 75 ppm N from 14-0-14 or a calcium/potassium nitrate feed once cotyledons are fully expanded.
- Alternate feed with clear water.
- Apply protective fungicides for damping off organisms once full stand is achieved.
- Irrigate early in the day so foliage dries by nightfall to prevent diseases.

Stage 3 – Growth and development of true leaves (14 to 21 days)

- Soil temperature 60 to 65°F (15 to 18°C).
- Allow the soil to dry thoroughly between irrigations, but avoid permanent wilting to promote root growth and control shoot growth.
- Maintain soil pH 5.5 to 5.8 and EC less than 1.0 mmhos/cm.
- Increase feed to 100 to 150 ppm N from 20-10-20, alternating with 14-0-14 or other calcium/potassium nitrate fertilizer.
- Fertilize every 2 to 3 irrigations. Clear irrigations between feeding will help control growth.
- If using 15-0-15, supplement with magnesium 1 to 2 times during this stage, using magnesium sulfate (16 oz./100 gal.) or magnesium nitrate. Do not mix magnesium sulfate with calcium nitrate as precipitation will form.
- Use temperature differential (DIF) whenever possible, especially the first 2 hours after sunrise, to control plant height.
- Minimize water and fertilizer stress in Stage 3 to prevent early bud set.

Stage 4 – Plants ready for transplanting or shipping (7 days)

- Soil temperature 55 to 65°F (13 to 17°C).
- Allow soil to dry thoroughly between irrigations.
- Maintain soil pH 5.5 to 5.8 and EC less than 0.75 mmhos/cm.
- Fertilize with 14-0-14 or calcium/potassium nitrate feed at 100 to 150 ppm N as needed. Avoid ammonium fertilizer.

Growing On to Finish Temperature

Night: 50 to 55°F (10 to 14°C)
Day: 55 to 65°F (14 to 18°C)

Light

Maintain light intensity between 4,000 and 6,000 f.c. (40,000 to 60,000 Lux).

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soil-less medium with a medium initial nutrient charge and a pH of 5.5 to 6.2.

Fertilization

- Fertilize every other irrigation with 15-0-15, alternating with 20-10-20 at 150 ppm nitrogen.
- Maintain medium electrical conductivity around 1.0 mmhos/cm (using 1:2 extraction).
- Excessive fertilizer stress will cause very small leaves, hard plants and yellow lower leaves. Keep the nutrient level low, but not exhausted.
- Excessive fertilizer levels will result in large, lush leaves and smaller flower count. Low to moderate feed levels are best.

Controlling Height

- Once plants are rooted to the sides of the containers, they can be allowed to wilt prior to irrigation to provide some height control. Do not allow severe wilting.
- Height can also be controlled by withholding fertilizer, especially phosphorus and ammonium-free nitrogen.
- Alyssum are responsive to day/night temperature DIF and are shorter with a negative DIF.

Post Production Care

Temperature

- Night: 50 to 55°F (10 to 14°C)
- Day: 55 to 65°F (14 to 18°C) or lower
- Optimal conditions may be difficult to maintain, especially if plants are displayed outside.
- Using a negative DIF will help keep the plants short and of high quality.

Light

Alyssum requires full sun; however, partial shade may be beneficial for retail shelf life.

Common Problems

Insects: White flies

Diseases: Powdery mildew, downey mildew

NOTE: Avoid using copper-based fungicides on alyssum.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (512-tray): 4 to 5 weeks

Transplant to flower: 6 to 7 weeks

Total crop time (sow to flower):
10 to 12 weeks

Note: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions.

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