

# Mona Lavender Plectranthus

## Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos and a pH of 5.5 to 5.8.
- Stick cuttings within 12 to 24 hours of arrival. Cuttings can be stored overnight, if necessary, at 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C).
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 74°F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible.
- To encourage branching and reduce stem stretch, **Mona Lavender Plectranthus** should be propagated under as high a light level as possible while avoiding unnecessary stress on the cuttings.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop. Avoid phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen during the rooting process to reduce stretch and unwanted vegetative growth.
- As the rooted cuttings develop, high light, appropriate water stress and moderate air temperatures should reduce the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGR). If a PGR is needed, **Mona Lavender Plectranthus** is responsive to Bonzi.
- **Mona Lavender Plectranthus** does not require pinching during propagation.
- **Mona Lavender Plectranthus** rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 24 days after sticking and should be transplanted as soon as possible. Rooted cuttings should not be held, as **Mona Lavender Plectranthus** will be actively growing and plants will begin to crowd and stretch very quickly.

## Growing On to Finish

### Media

Use a light, well-drained soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2.

### Temperature

- Nights: 58 to 65°F (14 to 18°C)
- Days: 75 to 80°F (24 to 26°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.

## Light

- Keep light levels as high as possible while maintaining recommended temperatures. The ideal range would be 4,000 to 7,000 f.c. (40,000 to 70,000 Lux).
- Light levels below 4,000 f.c. (40,000 Lux) will promote stem stretch.
- Light levels above 7,000 f.c. (70,000 Lux) will reduce foliage quality noticeably.
- **Mona Lavender Plectranthus** flowers earliest and most prolifically under a natural daylength of 12 hrs. or less. Longer daylengths will reduce or stop flowering completely.

## Watering

Allow the media to dry moderately between waterings.

## Fertilizer

- Maintain constant fertilization at 200 ppm N.
- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will promote unwanted vegetative growth. Both should be provided in very limited quantities.
- Slow-release fertilizer can be incorporated at a moderate rate to supplement a liquid program.

## Pinching

**Mona Lavender Plectranthus** should be pinched 7 to 14 days after transplanting to enhance branching and increase the number of flowers. Depending on container size, a second pinch may be needed.

## Controlling Growth

- Height can be controlled, in part, by maintaining moderate fertility, allowing the media to dry slightly between watering, providing maximum light, and spacing plants in advance of crowding and stretch.
- If necessary, Bonzi (5 to 20 ppm) can be applied as a foliar spray to control growth and improve habit.
- A tank mix of Cycocel (750 to 1,500 ppm) and B-Nine (2,500 to 3,500 ppm) can also be used to manage height.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.
- Growers can use blackcloth to induce flowering. Limiting daylength to 11 hours for 4 weeks will induce flowering. Plants will be ready for sale 4 to 5 weeks after short day treatment ends.

## Common Problems

All **Mona Lavender** Plectranthus cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants**<sup>®</sup> program.

Problems	Causes
<b>Plant collapse</b>	Wet media for an extended period of time ( <i>Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Botrytis</i> )
<b>Yellowing foliage</b>	High light conditions Low fertilization
<b>Poor branching</b>	Low fertilization, especially nitrogen Low light conditions
<b>Stretched plants</b>	Low light conditions Crowding before spacing Late transplanting

## Mona Lavender Plectranthus Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule In Weeks)

	4.5–5-In. (11–13-Cm) Pots 1 PP*	6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 2–3 PP*	10–12-In. (25–30-Cm) Pots 3–5 PP*
<b>Unrooted cuttings</b>	9–11	10–12	12–15
<b>Rooted cuttings</b>	7–8	8–9	9–11

\*PP: Plants per pot or basket

**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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