

Black and Blue Salvia

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.
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop.
- Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moderately wet and never saturated. This will prevent iron deficiency and the associated chlorotic foliage which can develop.
- As the rooted cuttings develop, appropriate water stress and moderate air temperatures should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGR).
- **Black and Blue** Salvia should be pinched 18 to 24 days after sticking, when roots are well developed, to promote early branching and improve habit.
- **Black and Blue** Salvia rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 24 to 28 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- A pH of 5.6 to 6.0 is optimum.
- **Black and Blue** Salvia prefers a well-drained soil with as much air space as is practical.

Temperature

- Nights: 58 to 65°F (14 to 18°C)
- Days: 70 to 78°F (21 to 25°C)

Light

- **Black and Blue** Salvia should be grown in high light; 6,000 to 10,000 f.c. (60,000 to 100,000 Lux) is the ideal range.
- Plants will stretch badly at light intensities below 4,000 f.c. (40,000 Lux); branching will be reduced, as will flowering, and the overall quality of **Black and Blue** Salvia will be reduced significantly.

Watering

The medium must be allowed to dry between waterings. However, periods of sustained wilting should be avoided.

Fertilizer

- **Black and Blue** Salvia has a moderate fertilizer requirement.
- 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.
- If new growth is chlorotic, add chelated iron to the feed.
- Slow-release fertilizer can be incorporated at a moderate rate to supplement a liquid program.

Pinching

- **Black and Blue** Salvia should be pinched 7 to 10 days after transplanting.
- Depending on the pot size, light levels and other cultural factors, 1 to 2 additional pinches will be required. Each pinch should be performed when 4 mature leaves can be left on the stem after the terminal is removed to ensure adequate breaks after the pinch. Plants should bloom 4 to 6 weeks after a pinch.

Controlling Growth

- Maintain recommended temperatures and light levels to avoid stretch.
- Wet media will cause stretching and produce weak growth.
- Do not allow the plants to become crowded on the bench.
- A B-Nine (2,000 to 3,500 ppm) and Cycocel (1,000 to 1,500 ppm) tank mix can be used to control unwanted stretch and improve overall habit. Applications should be made 10 to 14 days apart as needed.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

Common Problems

Insects: Thrips, aphids, whitefly, fungus gnats.

Diseases: *Botrytis*, *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia*.

All **Black and Blue** Salvia cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants**® program.

Problems	Causes
Plant collapse	Stem canker (<i>Botrytis</i>) Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (<i>Pythium</i>)
Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers	Excessive ammonia nitrogen in fertilizer Low light and over-watering; saturated media
Poor branching and thin plants	Low fertilization during early stages of growth; low light

Black & Blue Salvia Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule In Weeks)

	4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1 PP*	6-8-In. (15-20-Cm) Pots 1-2 PP*	10-12-In. (25-30-Cm) Pots 2-3 PP*
Unrooted cuttings	11-13	12-14	14-15
Rooted cuttings	7-9	8-10	10-12

*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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