

Mystic Spires Blue Salvia

Salvia farinacea x longispicata

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).
- If needed, apply Bonzi as a drench (0.5 to 3 ppm) 10 to 12 days after sticking.
- **Mystic Spires Blue** Salvia should be pinched 18 to 24 days after sticking, when roots are well developed, to promote early branching and improve habit.
- **Mystic Spires Blue** Salvia rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 21 to 24 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- A pH of 5.8 to 6.3 is optimum.
- **Mystic Spires Blue** Salvia prefers a well-drained soil.

Temperature

- Nights: 62 to 68°F (17 to 20°C)
- Days: 70 to 80°F (21 to 26°C)

Light

- **Mystic Spires 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 **Mystic Spires Blue** Salvia will be reduced significantly.
- **Mystic Spires Blue** Salvia will bloom quicker under short days.

Watering

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

Fertilizer

- **Mystic Spires Blue** Salvia has a moderate fertilizer requirement.
- Maintain constant fertilization at 150 to 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

- **Mystic Spires 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.
- **Mystic Spires Blue** Salvia is responsive to Bonzi (0.5 to 1.5 ppm drench), B-Nine (2,500 to 3,000 ppm) and Cycocel (1,000 to 1,500 ppm) tank mix (spray) applied 1 to 3 times and is effective for toning. Applications should be made 10 to 14 days apart as needed.
- When growing under long day conditions (>14 hr. days), additional applications of PGRs will be required. B-Nine/Cycocel tank mix is most effective.
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions.

Common Problems

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

Insects: Thrips, aphids, whitefly, fungus gnats.

All **Mystic Spires 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

Mystic Spires 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	9-13	10-14	13-15
Rooted cuttings	4-8	6-10	8-12

*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.

Visit **Ball FloraPlant.com** today to check out the complete line of terrific products from Ball FloraPlant.

The logo for Ball FloraPlant, featuring the word "Ball" in a serif font with two dots above the 'i', followed by "FloraPlant" in a sans-serif font.

In North America, Ball FloraPlant products are distributed exclusively by Ball Seed Co., Ball Superior and ColorLink.
800 879-BALL Fax: 800 234-0370 ballseed.com

[™] denotes a trademark of and [®] denotes a registered trademark of Ball Horticultural Company in the US. It may also be registered in other countries.

© 2006 Ball Horticultural Company Printed In USA BFP06070 12/05