

Playful™ Snapdragon

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).
- **Playful** Snapdragons should be pinched 18 to 24 days after sticking when roots are well-developed.
- **Playful** Snapdragon rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 24 to 28 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- Use media with good aeration, drainage and water-holding capacity.
- Like most snapdragons, the **Playful** series prefers a medium that will dry regularly between waterings.
- A pH of 5.5 to 5.8 is optimum.

Temperature

- Nights: 50 to 55°F (10 to 14°C)
- Days: 65 to 75°F (18 to 24°C); avoid temperatures above 80°F (26°C).

Transplanting

The rooted cutting should be transplanted at or slightly above the soil line of the final container. This will greatly reduce problems with various root and stem rots.

Light

- **Playful** Snapdragons will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 4,000 to 7,000 f.c. (40,000 to 70,000 Lux). However, for plants to tolerate high light levels, air temperatures must be maintained within the ideal range.
- In high-light, high-temperature conditions, reduce light to 4,000 to 5,000 f.c. (40,000 to 50,000 Lux).
- Plants will stretch and flowering will be delayed under low-light conditions.

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry regularly between watering and never saturated.
- If grown in hanging baskets, **Playful** Snapdragons should be hung after plants are well-rooted to avoid over-watering young plants.
- Leach regularly to avoid the buildup of high soluble salt levels.
- Avoid excessive water stress as this will cause foliar damage.

Fertilizer

- Use a balanced fertilizer at a rate of 200 ppm N. Supplemental calcium should be applied as needed to further strengthen stems.
- When grown excessively hungry, plants will become woody and will not branch properly.

Long Day/Short Day Treatments

Playful Snapdragons will flower year-round under most conditions, but are affected by the total amount of light. Crop times will be longer under short daylength and lower light levels.

Pinching

- **Playful** Snapdragons should be pinched once, as soon as they are well-rooted, to maximize branching and create a full plant covered in flowers. Plants grown under short daylength and/or lower light levels may require a second pinch, particularly when grown in larger containers.
- Care must be taken to avoid damaging the root system when pinching recently transplanted **Playful** Snapdragon rooted cuttings. This type of damage can slow growth dramatically or result in plant loss.

Controlling Growth

- Under most conditions, **Playful** Snapdragons will not require growth regulator treatments.
- **Playful** Snapdragons are responsive to Bonzi applied as a spray (30 to 60 ppm) and Sumagic applied as a spray (20 to 45 ppm) to control stretch and improve the habit.
- 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, spider mites, aphids, fungus gnats.

Diseases: *Botrytis* (gray mold), *Thielaviopsis*, *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia*, Downy Mildew, Powdery Mildew.

All **Playful** Snapdragon cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

Problems	Causes
Plant collapse	Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (<i>Pythium</i> , <i>Thielaviopsis</i>) Stem canker (<i>Botrytis</i>) Rooted cuttings transplanted too deeply
Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers	Excessive ammonium-based fertilizer Over-fertilization under low light conditions Low light and over-watering, saturated media
Yellowing of young foliage	Fe deficiency/high soil pH Saturated media
Foliage necrosis	High soluble salts in media Excessive water stress
Poor branching and thin plants	Low fertilization during early stages of growth Low light conditions

Playful Snapdragon Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule In Weeks)

	4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1 PP*	6-In. (15-Cm) Pots 2-3 PP*	10-12-In. (25-30-Cm) Pots 3-5 PP*
Unrooted cutting	10-12	11-14	13-15
Rooted cutting	6-8	7-10	9-12

*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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