Viola x wittrockiana F1

Premier

Premier, the first choice in large flowered Pansy series for Autumn, Winter and Spring cultivation. Strong plants with upward facing flowers in bright, shiny colours.

- Great for packs, but also pots
- Non-stretching, basal branching plants
- Good response to PGRs
- Uniform between and within the colours
- Large flowers on short peduncles
- Striking colours, clear and blotched faces
- Excellent garden performance
- Good Winter-flowering capability

Annual	Bedding Plant
Bedding + mixed combo	Half shade + full sun
Upright	700/gram
15 cm	Normal
10 cm	Pack, pot 9 cm

Culture Guide

Plug Culture

Stage 1	(days 1-7) Sow pansy seed in a well-aerated plug mix with a pH between 5.5 and 5.8, and cover lightly with a medium or coarse vermiculite. After sowing, water the plug flats well and maintain a soil temperature of 18 C When using a germination chamber maintain 100 % relative humidity and remove plug trays when the seed coat is cracked.
Stage 2	(days 7-14) Maintain temperatures at 18°C, if possible, and provide good air flow. Light levels should be maintained up to 32,000 lux, without causing heat or water stress. When seedlings begin to appear in the tray, lightly fertilize with 75 ppm of N from a well-balanced fertilizer containing trace element. After the initial feed, begin fertilizing with 100 ppm of N. A Calcium nitrate-based fertilizer works well to build strong compact plants.
Stage 3	(days 15-25) Maintain soil pH between 5.5 and 5.8. and maitain an EC of 0.8-1.0 (1:2 slurry). Ideally, seedlings should be given high light levels to reduce stretching. If plant height control is needed, B Nine (Daminozide) and Cycocel are effective.
Stage 4	(days 26-30) Plug flats are approaching market size, before shipping plugs in a box apply PGR when needed to control stretching. Reduce fertilizer to tone the plants and prepare them for transplanting. Never delay transplanting into pot.

Pack & Pot Culture

Media	Transplant plugs into well-aerated compost with a pH between 5.5 and 5.9, EC 1.3.
Transplanting	Transplant one plug in a 9-10 cm pot. Avoid planting the plugs too deep to prevent stem rot.
Temperature	Un-heated house: For the first two weeks after potting, keep 15-18°C to stimulate root growth. Then, maintain temperatures as cool as possible. Over-Winter under frost free conditions (minimum temperature 3-5°C). Forcing at 10-12°C.
Fertilizer	Fertilize with 150-200 ppm of N from a well-balanced fertilizer to ensure a healthy start. Violas and pansies are sensitive to boron deficiency characterized by deep green foliage, crinkled foliage and tip abortion. It is recommended to supply 0.25 of boron at each watering. Be sure to check the boron level in your water supply to avoid oversupplying this micro-element.
Lighting	Provide high light, up to 75,000 lux, and shade only to control high temperatures.

Sakata Ornamentals Europe
Odensevej 82, 5290 Marslev, Denmark, +45 63906490, fax. +45 63906499
marcom@sakata.eu, www.sakataornamentals.eu

Growth regulators	B-Nine (daminozide), Cycocel, Bonzi can be used as a growtregulater, also dry cultivation after the roots are well established will help to control planthabit and flowerstem length.
Pests & diseases	Major root diseases include Pythium, Phytopthora and Thielaviopsis. Thielaviopsis or Black Root Rot is often a problem early in the season when temperatures are high. Research has shown that the disease is checked at a pH of 5.5 or lower.
Crop schedule	Crop time in cool northern regions: Un-heated house, 22-26 weeks (sowing September - sales March). Heated house: 11-13 weeks (sowing December/January - sales March/April or sowing July - sales September/October). Crop time in warm southern regions: 11-13 weeks (sowing July/August - sales October). In late Summer under high light and warm temperature conditions, reduce crop time by 1-2 weeks.

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