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Lobelia: Finished Production Tips



By: [Harvey Lang](#) | [Email](#)

March 7, 2012

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Grow Time (From Rooted Cutting)

A lobelia in a quart container with one pinch per plant (ppp) takes six to seven weeks of grow time. In a gallon container with two ppp, grow time is estimated at eight to nine weeks. Lobelias in 12-inch baskets with four to five ppp take 10 to 11 weeks of grow time.

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Pinch

One pinch, ideally done in propagation, is enough for small and midsize pots. Trailing types will benefit from a second pinch a few weeks after transplant. The second pinch is not as crucial for Techno Heat Upright types. When pinching, use excellent sanitation, including viricides like Virkon-S, RelyOn or Trisodium phosphate (TSP).

Growing Media

High quality media with good porosity is critical for best growth. Peat-based mixes, like Fafard 2 Mix or 1P Mix, or bark-based mixes, like Fafard 4P Mix or 3B Mix work well.

Fertilizer Rate

Apply 200 parts per million (ppm) nitrogen (N), using Cal-Mag fertilizers (i.e. 13-2-13, 15-5-15, 14-4-14, etc.) for more compact growth and neutral pH. Use high ammonium and phosphorus containing fertilizers (i.e. 20-10-20, 15-15-15, etc.) for softer growth and to lower pH. Electrical conductivity (E.C.) should be between 1.8 to 2.2 mS/cm (SME), with a pH between 5.8 and 6.2. Avoid letting plants get “bone dry.”

Light

Lobelias should ideally receive more than 4,500 foot candles (15 mols/day). Also, faster and improved flowering occurs when daylength is greater than 12 hours.

Plant Growth Regulators

Spray with 2500 ppm B-Nine plant growth regulator or 5 to 10 ppm Sumagic plant growth regulator to keep plants under control. Bonzi plant growth regulator drenches at 1 ppm also work well three to five weeks before sale.

Insects & Diseases

For lobelia, thrips and thrips-vectored diseases, such as impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) can cause problems. Flagship insecticide, Avid miticide/insecticide and Conserve insecticide are effective in a thrips management program. Test suspicious looking plants



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immediately. Symptoms of INSV on lobelia include spotted and necrotic leaves, similar to high salt damage. Subdue Maxx, Heritage and Daconil ULTREX insecticides provide protection against foliar and/or root disease.

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