

Ipomoea Illusion[®], Sweet Caroline, Sweetheart, and Standard



NUTRITION

pH: 6.0 – 6.5

EC: (2:1 extraction method) .6 – .9

Constant feeding at 150ppm – 200ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix is recommended.

TEMPERATURE

Rooting out: 65 – 72 F

Growing on: 65 – 72 F

Holding: 60 – 65 F

WATERING

Maintain moderate soil moisture. Allow the soil to cycle from moist to dry. Avoid both severe dry downs/wilting and long periods of wet soil, especially at cooler temperatures.

TIMING

4" – 5": 4 – 6 weeks with one 84 cell plant per container.

6"/1GL Royale™: 6 – 8 weeks with one 84 cell plant/container.

8": 8 – 9 weeks with one 84 cell plant per container.

10" – 12" Hanging Basket: 7 – 10 weeks with three to five 84 cell plants per container.

PLANTING

84 liner cell plants should be planted into a well drained soil mix selected to match individual water quality and fertilizer blends. Water in thoroughly without saturating the mix and maintain a constant moderate soil moisture level for the first seven to 10 days to establish new rooting. Plants are not pinched and it should not be needed, except for taller material at planting or a pinch for larger containers, usually two to three weeks after planting.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

These plants should be grown in a high to moderate light area of the greenhouse for optimal plant development.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Plant growth regulators may not be needed if grown under recommended conditions. B-Nine[®] (daminozide) is effective as a spray applied at 2,500ppm. There are considerable variations in vigor between the *Ipomoea* varieties:

- Sweet Carolines are well suited for small containers and perform well in combinations as a less vigorous option. Bewitched are more upright and less vigorous than Sweet Carolines.
- Sweet Caroline Sweethearts are "heart shaped" and more vigorous than Sweet Carolines, but less than standard *Ipomoea*.
- Illusion[®] are more vigorous, "globe" shaped and less trailing than others. Garnet Lace (the most vigorous of the three) trails more than Emerald or Midnight Lace. They can be produced in small container or larger containers and combinations.
- Margarita is the most vigorous of the Standard types, followed by Black Heart, Blackie, and Tricolor as least vigorous.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

There should be little instance of disease if basic cultural guidelines are followed. Proper temperature, light levels, humidity levels, air movement, and water management will eliminate most disease issues. A broad spectrum fungicide such as Banrot[®] (etrifiazole plus thiophanate-methyl) can be applied at transplant if desired. In poor growing conditions Botrytis, leaf spotting, or Oedema can develop. Whiteflies, Thrips, Spider Mites, and Aphids can be pests of concern. Scout weekly and use proper IPM measures.

OTHER TIPS

- For easier care, group the plants in the greenhouse based on plant vigor as listed in the Growth Regulators section.
- Water properly in low light, cool temperature and high humidity. Avoid prolonged periods of water on foliage (bacterial and fungal spotting can occur). This is more prevalent on dark leaved types. Control relative humidity, temperature and soil moisture levels, and provide good air movement to avoid Oedema and "purpling" of foliage.
- *Ipomoea* finish best in a controlled greenhouse environment, but can be moved outdoors after all threat of frost has passed (late May to early June in Michigan). This recommendation is based on average spring weather and should be adjusted for unseasonably severe or unseasonably mild conditions.



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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.