

easy grow guide

salvia rhea, strata, cirrus, seascape mix (OP salvia farinacea)



Plug Production: 288 plugs

Sowing/Media:	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.5-5.8, EC <0.75mmhos. Cover seed with coarse vermiculite
Germination Stage 1 & 2: (5-7 days)	Keep media uniformly moist, not wet as too much moisture can reduce germination, media temperature should be 72-75°F (22-24°C), keep light levels <1500 f.c. Salvia farinacea is very sensitive to high salts during germination, particularly high NH4.
Germination Stage 3:	Media temperature can be dropped to 68-72°F (20-22°C), light levels should be <3000 f.c. Allow media to dry down slightly between irrigations but avoid wilt. Fertilize every other irrigation with 100-150ppm N from 15-5-15 or 13-2-13, keep media pH at 5.5-5.8 and EC <1.0-1.5mmhos. Rinse off fertilizer to avoid burning the young growing tips. Salvia farinacea is a long day crop so extending the daylength to 16hrs with HID lights, once the first true leaf is showing is beneficial.
Germination Stage 4:	Media temperatures can be lowered to 62-65°F (16-18°C), light levels should be maintained around 3000 f.c. Dry down between irrigations but avoid wilt. Fertilize with 100-150ppm N from 13-2-13 as needed to tone seedlings. Maintain pH and EC levels the same as stage 3. Later in the plug stage, sprays of B-Nine (2500ppm) or A-Rest (2-7ppm) can be used to prevent stem stretch if required although Rhea, Strata and Cirrus are bred to be more compact than Victoria. It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements.

Growing On to Finish: 4" (10.5cm) – 6" (15cm) pots

Media:	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.5-5.8 and EC <1.5mmhos.
Temperatures:	Temperatures for rooting out after transplant should be 65-68°F (18-20°C) Temperatures for growing on can be lowered to 62-65°F (16-18°C)
Light:	Light levels should be 3000-5000 f.c. If the plugs were grown under short days, provide daylength extension to 16-18 hrs to reduce crop time. Low light levels will also delay flowering.
Irrigation:	Practice a good wet/dry moisture cycle but avoid extremes of wet and dry.
Fertilizer:	Feed 1–2 times per week with 150ppm N from 15-5-15 or 17-5-17. Keep media pH 5.5-5.8, and media EC 1.0-2.0 mmhos, Salvias are very sensitive to high salt levels.
Growth Regulators:	Use sprays of B-Nine (2500-5000ppm), Bonzi sprays (5-15ppm), or A-Rest (3-10ppm) as needed to control growth although Rhea, Strata and Cirrus are bred to be more compact than Victoria, so less treatments should be required. A drench of Bonzi (2-3ppm) or Sumagic (0.5-1ppm) when plants are starting to flower can control height without delaying flowering. It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements
Pests:	Aphids, Thrips, Whiteflies
Diseases/Problems:	Root rots, wilting, tip burn - caused by not rinsing fertilizer from the foliage, loss of roots and leaf burn - caused by high salts, black leaves caused by being too wet. No flowering - caused by low light levels or short days

Plug Times:

288 plug:	6-7 weeks from sowing to transplant
------------------	-------------------------------------

Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants per Container	Transplant to Finish	Total Crop Time
4" (10.5cm):	1 x plug	9-10 weeks	15-17 weeks
6" (15cm):	1-3 x plug	10-11 weeks	16-18 weeks

Crop times are based on trials conducted in the UK. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can alter the crop times stated above.