

Cultural Information for: Calibrachoa Calipetite Series Annual
Common Name: Calibrachoa
Botanical Name: Calibrachoa hybrida
Optimum Growing Temperature: 68 °F / 20 °C

Propagation: 4 weeks

Rooting: Avoid applying too much mist in propagation as excess water slows rooting. For the best results use a rooting hormone with up to 2500 ppm of IBA. Mixtures that also include up to 500 ppm of NAA work well too. Bottom heat enhances root development. Maintain soil temperatures between 65-68 °F/ 18-20 °C. Growth regulator applications (B-Nine®) may be applied to prevent stretch.

Forcing to flower:

Potting: Plant one rooted cutting per 4 or 5 inch/10 or 12 cm. pot. For 12 inch/30 cm. hanging baskets plant 4 per basket for fast cropping.

Media: Select a sterile, well-aerated mix. The optimum pH range is between 5.5 and 6.0. Consider that the water-holding capacity that is best for consumer performance may be greater than what is ideal for production.

Irrigation/Fertilization: Avoid excessive irrigation when the plants are young. Feed with a complete, balanced fertilizers at 250-350 ppm nitrogen (constant liquid feed/CLF). An EC level of 2.5-2.8 (1:2 slurry) is a good target range under most conditions. Provide a complete minor element program. Extra iron applications may be required to promote good leaf color. Apply iron sulfate drenches, (avoiding contact with the foliage), or iron chelate sprays or drenches. The use of Osmocote® or other appropriate slow-release fertilizer products may be beneficial in supplementing a CLF program and may provide improved performance for the consumer. Provide periodic clear water applications if excess soluble salts accumulate.

Temperature/Humidity: Establish the crop at an average temperature of 60°F/15°C. Once established grow at 63-70 °F/17-21°C during the day and at 63-65°F/17-18°C at night. For fast cropping, establish and grow at an average daily temperature of 68°F/20°C. Calibrachoa Calipetite responds well to DIF regimes. Provide good air circulation at all times. Maintain relative humidity below 70% to prevent diseases like Botrytis gray mold.

Light: Bright light is ideal for this crop. Provide a minimum of 5,000-6,000 foot candles/53,800-64,600 lux. Calibrachoa Calipetite are day length neutral but and perform best with good light quality. The use of supplemental light may be beneficial for early spring production in areas with low light levels or during cloudy periods.

Pinching: Pinching out the growing tip at transplant, or shortly afterwards, promotes branching and fuller plants.

Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs): Calibrachoa Calipetite is naturally compact and does not require chemical growth regulation. Provide high light, cool temperatures and a slight negative DIF for optimum growth.

Insects: Aphids, caterpillars, fungus gnats, leaf miners, thrips and whitefly.

Disease: Botrytis (gray mold), powdery mildew, root and stem rots, viruses.

Troubleshooting:

Symptom: Yellowing of young foliage: May be due to a malfunctioning fertilizer injector, high pH (>6.5), or low media iron levels.

Symptom: Yellowing of lower foliage: May be due to a malfunctioning injector resulting in low nitrogen levels in soil or tissue, high salts, low magnesium levels, (supplement with magnesium sulfate), or root and stem rot.

Nutrient Deficiencies

For a link to pictures of different nutrient deficiencies and corrective measures on Calibrachoa please visit.

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/floriculture/def>

Crop Scheduling:

Pot Size	Plant per pot	Total Crop Time*
4 inch/10 cm.	1	10-11 weeks
5 inch/12 cm.	1	11-12 weeks
6 inch/15 cm.	2	12-13 weeks
10 inch/25 inch	4	13-14 weeks

*from unrooted cutting (4 week rooting time)