

Cultural Information for: Mimulus Mystic Annual

Common Name: Monkey Flower

Botanical Name: Mimulus hybrida

Seed Count: 20-23,000/ounce 700-800/gram

Optimum Germination Temperature: 68°F / 20°C

Optimum Growing Temperature: 50-60°F / 11-15°C

Optimum pH: 5.8 – 6.2

EC – Plug: 0.4 – 0.8 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 0.9 – 2.0 (SME) / 1.1 - 2.6 (Pour Thru)

EC – Finishing: 0.9 – 1.3 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 2.1 – 3.5 (SME) / 2.7 - 4.6 (Pour Thru)

Mimulus is among the most popular flowers in the snapdragon family. Mimulus is often referred to as the *monkey flower* because of its spotted, funnel shaped flowers resemble a monkey’s characteristic grin. Native to the Americas, Australia, Africa, and Asia, Mimulus is a great plant for mild weather areas. Although many varieties have been developed today, Native Americans, ate the young stems and leaves of smaller, non-woody varieties. The root was used as an astringent and the crushed plant as a poultice for rope burns and minor wounds. Currently, there are over 80 species of Mimulus in California alone. Varieties have been developed that come in a wide range of colors. The F1 hybrid “Mystic” Series’ includes clear and bright colors that are not characteristic of the common spotted Mimulus flower. Clear colors include ivory, orange, rose, scarlet, wine, and yellow. Spotted colors include Yellow w/Spot and Cream w/Spot. Mystic looks best in hanging baskets and literally explodes with color. The Mystic series is extra-early, free flowering, floriferous and compact, making it an ideal pack item. Mimulus Mystic grows rapidly and performs best in cool summer areas. In warmer areas, filtered light or an eastern exposure is recommended. Mystic has proven outdoor performance in containers. Its rapid growing habit allows it to produce numerous flowers without interruption.

Plug Culture: 28 Days (288 / 12 x 24 tray)

Stage One (days 1-7) Mimulus seed is extremely small so the Mystic series is available as pelleted seed to make sowing easier. Sow the pellets in a well-drained media and do not cover the seed since it requires light to germinate. Mist the seed as needed to melt the pellet and keep the media moist. Ideal germination temperature is 68°F/20°C.

Stage Two (days 8-15) After germination, lower the temperature to 50–60°F/10–15°C, and fertilize with 50 ppm N from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer.

Stage Three (days 16–27) The plugs are beginning to fill in the plug tray. Drop the temperature to 50°F/10°C and fertilize weekly with 75 ppm N. Mimulus is a moisture loving plant, never allow it to dry out during the production stage.

Stage Four (day 28) Plants are now ready for transplanting into packs, pots and baskets. Mimulus Mystic grows rapidly so do not delay transplanting.

Finished Production: 6 weeks

Transplanting: Carefully remove the seedlings from the plug tray and plant them into packs, pots and baskets.

Fertilizer: The Mimulus Mystic series grows rapidly and requires moderate fertilization. Apply 100–150 ppm N weekly or as needed to maintain strong growth. The use of a well -balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer is recommended to build strong plants.

Temperature: Mimulus performs best at cool temperatures. Optimum growing temperature is 50–60 °F/10–15°C.

Plant Growth Regulation: Maintaining optimum temperatures and a negative DIF promotes compact plants. A tank mix of Cycocel (ancymidol) and B-Nine (daminozide) at 1,000 /1,500 ppm or 0.1/ 0.15% respectively is effective at reducing plant stretch.

Flowering: Mimulus Mystic requires 13+ hours of daylight (> 10-foot candles/110 lux) to develop buds and flowers. The Mystic Series is an extremely early flowering and dwarf strain.

Crop Schedule: Mimulus Mystic flowers in 65 – 70 days from sowing.

Sowing	Flowering
Mid-January	Early-April

Marketing Tips: Mimulus Mystic is a highly attractive plant that sells well in early spring. By nature, Mimulus flowers are highly sensitive to ethylene and shatter easily when sleeved. Mimulus plants are best shipped unsleeved on open racks. Mystic is ideal for independent retailers due to its showy flowers and special handling needs. The Mystic series includes both clear and spotted colors. For a brighter appearance, select the non-spotted colors.

“All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on North American conditions and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Application of recommended growth regulators and chemicals are subject to local and state regulations. Always follow manufacturer’s label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.”