

**Cultural Information for:** Portulaca Sunseeker Annual

**Common Name:** Moss Rose

**Botanical Name:** Portulaca grandiflora

**Seed Count:** 283,500 /ounce 10,000 /gram

**Optimum Germination Temperature:** 75-80°F / 24-26°C

**Optimum Growing Temperature:** 66-75°F / 19-24°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)

*Sakata's Portulaca Sunseeker series offers an improved Portulaca to both growers and gardeners. For growers, Sunseeker features a more controlled plant habit and is ideal for sales in cell packs and 4-inch/10 cm. pots. Consumers will find Sunseeker easier to separate when they transplant them into the garden. In addition, the Sunseeker series flowers early, (mid March) with 2 inch/5 cm. fully double flowers that stay open until late afternoon. Portulaca Sunseeker combines the best of the leading market varieties into one plant with early flowering and improved plant habit.*

## Plug Culture – 3 weeks (405 / 15 x 27 tray)

**Stage One** (days 1–5) Select a well-drained media with low nutrient charge and a pH of 6.0. Sow the seed uncovered as it requires light to germinate. Optimum germination temperature is 75-80°F/24-26°C. Maintain 100% relative humidity until the seed germinates. The photoperiod should be at least 13 hours to achieve proper growth and flowering. Portulaca germinates in three to five days.

**Stage Two** (days 5-10) After emergence, reduce humidity and lightly feed with 50 ppm Nitrogen using a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer. Maintain a temperature of 66-75°F/19-24°C.

**Note:** Portulaca Sunseeker is a facultative short-day plant, meaning that it set buds quicker under short day conditions. Provide long day conditions (>14 hours) in the plug stage to avoid pre-mature flowering and build sufficient plant body.

**Stage Three** (days 11–20) Continue feeding the plugs at a rate of 100 – 150 ppm N using a balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Maintain the temperature between 66-75°F /19- 24°C and provide strong light to avoid plant stretch.

**Stage Four** (day 21) The plugs are now ready for transplanting.

## Transplanting to Finishing / 3 - 4 weeks

### **Container Size:**

Portulaca Sunseeker makes an ideal ground cover or a component plant for mixed planters. Ideal for both packs and 4-inch/10 cm. pots.

### **Media:**

Use a well-drained media with a low nutrient charge. Portulaca does not like wet feet, and it is best to use a quick drying media that is open and porous.

### **Fertilizer:**

Portulaca does not require high fertilizer rates. Apply 100 to 150 ppm N as needed from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer.

### **Temperature:**

The optimum production temperature range is 66-75°F/19-24°C. Once planted outdoors, Sunseeker will thrive in hot and dry conditions.

### **Photoperiod:**

If the photoperiod is less than 13 hours, Portulaca Sunseeker may flower too quickly. Provide >14 hours of photoperiod and sufficient fertilizer to build strong plants before flowering.

### **Growth Regulators:**

None is required if plants are grown properly and transplanted on schedule.

### **Garden Site Selection:**

Portulaca does well in poor soil conditions but will not tolerate poorly drained sites.

### **Crop Schedule:**

Cell packs – 6-7 weeks from sowing

4-inch/10 cm. pots – 7-8 weeks from sowing

*“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.”*