

Cultural Information for: Snapdragon Candy Tops Annual
Common Name: Snapdragon
Botanical Name: Antirrhinum majus
Seed Count: 170,000 - 212,000/ounce 6,000 - 7,500/gram
Optimum Germination Temperature: 65°F / 18°C
Optimum Growing Temperature: 64-68°F / 17-20°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)

Plug Culture – 4 weeks (405 / 15 x 27 tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-7) Sow seed into trays filled with a sterile and well-drained media. Do not cover the seed as snapdragon requires light to germinate. Maintain a temperature of 65°F/18°C and enough moisture until germination is complete.

Note: Store seed in the refrigerator for 7-10 days prior to sowing to improve germination. Initially mist with KNO₃ at 50 ppm N* to promote higher germination. (*5 ounces/100 gallons, 375 grams/1,000 L).

Stage 2 (days 8-15) The cotyledons are now visible, and roots are beginning to form. Maintain the media moist but not saturated to promote healthy root development and penetration. Maintain the air temperature at 65°F/18°C and apply a light feeding at 50-75 ppm nitrogen from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation. Supplemental lighting can be used to reduce crop time but maintain the photoperiod at 12 hours of light to encourage vegetative growth.

Stage 3 (days 16-28) The first true leaves are developed, and roots are beginning to penetrate the media. Allow the media to dry slightly between irrigations to promote healthy root development. Maintain air temperature between 65–68°F/18-20°C. Increase the fertilizer rate to 75-100 ppm N once or twice per week to maintain strong growth. Attempt to maintain approximately 4 potassium: 2 calcium: 1 magnesium in the fertilizer for the best growth. Avoid ammonium-based fertilizers. Snapdragons are sensitive to high salt levels.

Stage 4 (days -28-30) At the end of stage 4 the plugs should have 2-3 sets of true leaves, and the roots should hold the plug media together. Optimum air temperature is 60-65°F/15-18°C to help tone the plugs. Maintain an EC of 0.75 to 1.0 mmhos/cm. (1:2 extraction).

Transplanting to flower – 5-8 weeks

Media: Select sterile and well-drained media with a pH between 5.8 -6.2 and low in salts.

Temperature: Optimum growing temperature is 64-68°F/ 17-20°C during the day and 60°F/15°C at night. Once established, the night temperature may be reduced to 50-55°F/11-15°C.

Fertilizer: Maintain the EC between 1.0 to 1.5 mmhos/cm. (1:2 extraction) by applying 150-200 ppm of nitrogen as needed from a well- balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation. The use of Cal-Mag formulations (15-5-15) works well to supply adequate amounts of magnesium. Avoid high rates of ammonium, especially at low temperatures, which promote softer growth and stretched plants. High pH (>6.5) results in iron chlorosis.

Flower Induction: Flower bud initiation occurs at a photoperiod of 10.5 hours or more. Snapdragon Candy Tops is both a facultative long day and facultative irradiant plant. Providing a 14-hour photoperiod and supplemental lighting, up to 2,500-foot candles/ 27,000 lux, will hasten development and flowering.

Plant Growth Regulation: Provide optimum temperatures and a negative DIF for natural height control. For packs and 4-inch/10.5 cm. pots use the following guide to promote compact plants. 6-inch pots require less regulation.

Chemical Growth Regulator Options	Comment
B-Nine* (daminozide) 3,500 – 5,000 ppm	Apply as needed
A-Rest* (ancymidol) spray 10-15 ppm	One-time application of either the spray or the srench.
A-Rest* srench at 1 – 1 ½ ppm with a clear water rinse after the srench.	

*do not apply after visible bud to prevent distortion.

Pests: Aphids, spider mites, thrips

Diseases: Botrytis, Downy Mildew, Powdery Mildew, Pythium, Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus and Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus.

Scheduling:*

Container	From sowing	Plugs per container
Cell Packs	9 -10 weeks	1 per cell
4 inch / 10.5 cm.	10-11 weeks	1
6 inch / 15 cm.	11-12 weeks	3

***Note:** Reduce crop time by 1-2 weeks for late summer/early fall sales.

“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 America 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.”