

Cultural Information for: Hypoestes Confetti Annual
Common Name: Polka Dot Plant
Botanical Name: Hypoestes phyllostachya
Seed Count: 25,500 /ounce 900 / gram
Optimum Germination Temperature: 68°F / 20°C
Optimum Growing Temperature: 66-68°F / 18-20°C

Fertilizer: Maintain media EC level between 1.0 and 1.5 mmhos (2:1 dilution). Alternating between 15-5-15 Cal/Mag and 20-10-20 at 150-200 ppm N works well.

Growth Regulation: A tank mix of 1,000 ppm B-Nine® (daminozide) and 500 ppm Cycocel® (chlormequat) is effective once or twice a week. Begin spraying when the plants have 2 pairs of true leaves. During cooler weather reduce the concentration to 500/250 ppm. Cycocel also helps to intensify the leaf color.

Plug Stage – 5 weeks – (288 / 12 x 24 tray)

Stage One (days 1-3) Single sow seed into a slightly fertilized peat with a pH of 5.5 to 6.0 and an EC of 0.5 to 0.7 mmhos (2:1 dilution). Apply a light cover of medium vermiculite to maintain sufficient humidity. Optimum germination temperature is 68°F/20°C. If using a germination chamber, remove trays at radicle emergence to avoid stretched seedlings.

Pests: Aphids and whitefly may occasionally be a problem; especially under warmer temperatures.

Diseases: No major pests or diseases.

Stage Two (days 4-14) After germination is complete, place the seedlings in a bright greenhouse with good air circulation. Fertilize at 75 ppm N using a well balanced Calcium nitrate based formulation. Optimum temperature is 66-68°F/18-20°C. To promote rapid development provide 16 hour photoperiod using 200 foot candles/ 2,500 lux.

Scheduling:

Variety	Cell Pack - 48	4 inch/10 cm. pot *
Compact	10-11 weeks	11-12 weeks
XL	9-10 weeks	10-11 weeks

*multiple plugs

Stage Three (days 15-28) The new leaves are beginning to form. Maintain the EC at 1.0 to 1.2 by applying 100-150 ppm of N as needed. Optimum light level is 2,500 foot candles/ 26,000 lux.

Note: One may sow 5-7 seeds directly into a 4 inch/10 cm. pot and reduce crop time by one week.

Stage Four (days 29-35) The plants are approaching transplant stage. Reduce fertilizer and moisture levels to tone the plants and prepare them for potting.

Variety	Height	Width
Compact	4 inches / 10 cm.	6 inches / 15 cm.
XL	8 -10 inches / 20-25 cm.	10 inches / 25 cm.

Transplanting – 5 weeks - 48 plug cell

Media: Select a well drained media with a pH between 5.5 and 6.0 with an EC of 0.5 to 0.7 mmhos (2:1 dilution).

“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.”

Temperature: Optimum growing temperature is 66-70°F /18-21°C.

Light level: Optimum light level is 3,500 foot candles/ 36,000 lux. Avoid strong light (> 4,000 foot candles 43,000/lux) as this will cause leaf curl and delayed development. Supplemental lighting, especially during the short days of winter and early spring, will enhance growth and reduce crop time.