

Cultural Information for: Snapdragon Candy Showers Annual

Common Name: Snapdragon

Botanical Name: Antirrhinum majus

Seed Count: 157,000 - 227,000/ounce 5,600 - 8,000/gram

Optimum Germination Temperature: 65°F / 18°C

Optimum Growing Temperature: 60-65°F / 16-18°C

Optimum pH: 5.8 – 6.2

EC – Plug: 0.26 – 0.75 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 0.76 – 2.0 (SME)

EC – Finishing: 0.76 – 1.25 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 2.1 – 3.5 (SME)

Plug Culture –4 weeks (288 / 12 x 24tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-10) Sow seed into trays filled with a sterile and well-drained media a low starting EC. A 288-plug tray or larger cell is recommended. Lightly cover the seed with medium vermiculite and provide sufficient moisture to dissolve the pellet. Maintain a temperature of 65F/18C.

Stage 2 (days 11-18) 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 (50-75 ppm N) from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation.

Stage 3 (days 19-27) The first true leaves are now developed, and roots are beginning to penetrate the media. Allow the media to dry slightly between irrigations to promote healthy root growth. Maintain air temperature between 65–68°F/18-20°C and increase the fertilizer rate to 75-100 ppm N. Attempt to maintain approximately 4 potassium: 2 calcium: 1 magnesium in the fertilizer for the best growth. Avoid ammonium-based fertilizers. Do not overfertilize as Snapdragons are salt sensitive.

Stage 4 (days -28-35) At the end of stage 4 the plugs will 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 tone the seedlings.

Transplanting to flower

Media: Select a sterile and well-drained media with a pH between 5.5 - 5.8 and low in nutrients (EC level less than 1.0 mmhos).

Temperature: Optimum growing temperature is 60-65°F/ 15-18°C days and 60°F/15°C at night. Once established the night temperature may be reduced to 50-55°F/10-13°C.

Fertilizer: To maintain strong growth, apply 150-200 ppm N as needed from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation. The use of Cal/Mag formulations, such as 15-5-15, work well and 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.

Lighting: Antirrhinum is a facultative long day plant. Providing long days (>14 hours) along with supplemental lighting, up to 2,500-foot candles/ 27,000 lux, will hasten development and flowering.

Pests: Aphids, thrips and spider mites

Diseases: Downy mildew, powdery mildew, pythium, rust, tomato spotted wilt virus and INSV (impatiens necrotic spot virus).

Crop Scheduling:

Container	Plants per pot	Weeks from sowing*
4 inch / 10 cm.	1 multi-plug	9-10 weeks
1 Quart / 12 cm.	1 multi-plug	10-11 weeks
6 inch / 15 cm.	1 multi-plug	11-12 weeks
10 inch / 25 cm.	3 multi-plugs	12-14 weeks
12 inch / 30 cm.	4 multi-plugs	13-15 weeks

*Depending on day-length and temperature. Reduce crop time by 1-2 weeks for late summer/early fall production.

Culture Watch Point: Candy Showers becomes receptive to flower bud initiation at 5 pairs of true leaves. To promote sufficient vegetative growth in the final container, transplant when plugs have around 2 leaf pairs. A photoperiod of 10.5 + hours is necessary to initiate and develop flowers. However, a longer day length yields more flower power.

Outdoors: Candy Showers spreads up to one foot in the garden and grows 4-6 inches tall depending on the climate, soil type and exposure.

“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.”