





# Cultural Tips & Information





 **Ageratum Everblue-** This beautiful plant will add wonderful accent to any collection. Its green foliage is augmented by its bright purple flowers. Ageratum is an upright plant that likes full sun. Ageratum, from vegetative production, out preforms seed varieties- especially in hot summer months. Allow 4-6 weeks to finish 4" pots. Pinch if needed. Grows 8"-12" tall. Watch for white fly and aphids.


 **Ajuga-** Use well-drained soil in partial shade with light feed (150 ppm nitrogen). Plant 1 plant per 4" pot and allow 6-8 weeks to finish. Watch for aphids and spider mites. Root rot diseases can also be a problem. This perennial landscape plant has a tight mounding habit of about 8" tall. Ajuga are commonly used as ground covers, but are catching on in combination planting. This variety is very cold-hardy.


 **Alternanthera-** Grow this landscape plant as an annual. It will finish in six weeks for a 4" pot. Beautiful color all summer long. Natural short habit (10") is great for planting in front of other taller landscape plants. Watch for white fly.


 **Angelonia-** These Angelonia are wonderful! All four colors load up with full bloom spikes staying in the eighteen inch height range. Allow 4-6 weeks for 4" pots; may need to pinch once. Watch for aphids, thrip, and spider mites.


 **Argyranthemum-** This plant has an upright habit, perfect for combinations. Allow 6-8 weeks from plugs to finish. Watch for spider mites.


 **Bacopa Trailing-** Great for combos! Plant five plugs per 10" basket, with a minimum 50° night temperature, and allow 10 weeks to finish. Botrytis can be a problem. High pH results in yellowed foliage (iron deficiency). Maintain 5.5-6.0 pH. Bacopa mix well with almost anything! Watch for white fly and aphids.


 **Basket Grass, Oplismenus-** This variegated true grass likes bright light. It tolerates both hot and cool temperatures. Don't let these dry out severely, but slightly between each watering and this will give a nice pink color to the leaves. Used in hanging baskets, it looks like a variegated Bridal Veil. Allow 8-10 weeks for 4 plugs per 10" pot.


 **Begonias, Angelwing-** Richmendensis and Sunbrite need bright light; all others tolerate it. Grow in 55°-60° night temp, using low feed until spring. Begonias are not prone to pests, except perhaps thrips. Begonias must be grown in well-drained soil to prevent soil-borne diseases. Watch for botrytis and powdery mildew in humid environments. Allow six weeks for one plug per 4" pot. Allow 10-12 weeks four plugs per 10" basket. Pinch the baskets at 5-6 weeks to increase branching. Cuttings to be propagated should be checked for lateral branching before sticking. If a hanging basket becomes overgrown step it up into a deck pot & triple the value of it.


 **Begonias, Charm/ Double-** Grow Cherry Blossom in bright light, all others in medium light. Keep 55° night temp, and use low feed. Do not put *Osmocote* near stems. Allow six weeks for one plug per 4" pot, which may need pinching at 2-3 weeks. Allow 6-8 weeks for 4 plugs per 10" basket. Pinch baskets at 3-week intervals, until spring season- then let flower. Watch for thrips. Stem rot can be a problem if you do not use a well-drained soil.


 **Begonias, Reiger & Rex-** These have a similar culture to Angelwing, except somewhat slower—no pinching is needed. Bacteria can be a problem: start clean, grow clean. Habit is more for small pots. Allow 6-8 weeks to finish a 4" pot at 60° night temperature. Watch for thrip.


 **Bidens-** Good for mixed containers, filling in low spaces with nice fern-leaved foliage and bright yellow flowers. Likes a well drained soil and bright light. Allow 8-10 weeks to mature in baskets.


 **Bougainvillea-** Grow for at least 10 weeks in bright light and pinch as needed to keep plants well-branched. 60° night temps yield the best growth, but some growers who start in the fall could allow cooler nights during the coldest months. Plants may defoliate in the winter. Allow them to dry out between watering. Maintain a pH of 5-6. A higher pH will cause iron deficiency.


 **Calibrachoa-** Great combination plant! Grow in bright light and well-drained soil, using moderate feed. Soil should be slightly acidic to prevent iron deficiency. Yellow tip growth is a symptom of iron deficiency. Watch for thrip and aphids. Do not allow these to dry out severely between watering. Allow 8-10 weeks to finish a basket with 3 ppp at 60° night temp. (Can be grown much cooler but crop time would be affected.)


 **Candy Corn Manettia Luteo-** This plant variety is a fast growing vine, climbing the wires of baskets or trellises. Loads up with Candy Corn flowers as it matures. Allow 8-10 weeks to finish.


 **Carnation-** This winter-hardy Carnation is a great plant for landscape and container growers. Hanging basket growers should cut back plants frequently during winter months so that plants are short and stocky for a burst of color in the spring. Grow 4 plants per 10" basket. Carnations should be grown in well-drained soil. A cold frame or cool green house will produce good results for this plant. Use low feed until spring. Watch for aphids. Start in fall for cool house-grown plants for spring. Heated house-grown plants should finish in 10 weeks at 55° night temperature.


 **Chenille Firetail-** This is a good bright-light basket plant. It loads up with blooms in 10-12 weeks if planted 5 plugs per 10" basket. Chenille grow faster as the days get longer. Use low feed in the winter, high feed in the spring. Watch for white flies. pH of no more than 6.5 is important to prevent iron deficiency. Chenille mix well with almost anything.

 **Chicken Gizzard-** This unusual plant is always colorful. It has an upright growth habit 12"-18" in height. Allow medium levels of light (indoors near a window, in a sun room, or outside as an annual). Plant 1 plant per 4" pot in well-drained soil with low feed. Pinch plants at three-week intervals to develop a very full bush. Allow 3-6 weeks to finish, depending on fullness desired. Watch for spider mites and aphids.


 **Cissus Ivy-** Cissus Rhombifolia, otherwise known as Grape Ivy, is a tropical plant that makes nice hanging baskets. It is becoming popular in combination planting because of its unique foliage. Use well-drained soil in part shade with light feed (150 ppm nitrogen) and warm temperatures (60° nights). Plant 4 plants per 10" basket and allow 12 weeks to finish. Watch for aphids and spider mites. Drench with fungicide occasionally to prevent root-rot disease.


 **Coleus-** All our varieties love full sun except as noted in catalog. All are vigorous; pinch as needed to control stretch. You can have baskets easily in 8 weeks or less using 4 plants per 10" basket. Pinch a 4" pot once to finish it in 4 weeks. Downy mildew symptoms are a tiny gray fuzz on back of leaves and leaf damage. Inspect often, for disease favors cool, humid conditions. Spray for prevention rather than treat this disease.


 **Double Impatiens-** Grow this plant in bright light for the winter; then shade it a little for spring. Watch for thrips and spider mites, especially as the weather warms toward spring. A treatment of *Florel* is helpful for branching, but it must be applied to plants at an early stage. Do not allow *Florel* to drain into the root system. If plants are sprayed 1-2 weeks after rooted cuttings are planted, lateral branching will be increased and blooming will be stopped for up to 6 weeks after treatment. Feed plants at 150 ppm nitrogen or less. Epsom salt helps keep them green. 1 plug per 4" pot (well-spaced from the onset) should finish in 4-6 weeks. Allow 8-10 weeks for four plugs per 10" basket. Grow at 55° night temperatures.

 **Dracena Indivisa-** This is an upright plant. It is commonly used in combination planting to add height to the amalgamation. Feed 150 ppm nitrogen at 60° night temperatures. Allow 6-8 weeks grow-time for 4" pots.


 **Duranta-** Cold hardy to 28°. Duranta Yellow is great for borders due to its low stature.

 **Evolvulus Blue Daze-** Unusual blue flowers make this creeping plant stand out. This variety will tolerate full sun, which makes it a great landscaper's plant. Also used in hanging baskets. Grow in well-drained soil with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. Use moderate feed in warm temperatures. Plants do not tolerate drought very well, especially when grown in containers. Plant 4 plants per 10" basket. Grow in bright light. Will finish in 10 weeks.


 **Ferns, True Boston Massii-** Develop a nice 4" pot by fall; then transplant one 4" pot to one 10" basket to finish for spring. Grow at 60° night temperatures. Watch for fungi in wet weather as the plants get more full. pH of 6 or less.

 **Fuchsia**- Start these plants in December or January for spring baskets, and allow plenty of light and space. Use low feed to start off, then use medium as days get longer. Pinch them at 4-week intervals. Allow 60 days from the last pinch to the first bloom in spring. Plant 4 plugs per 10" pot. Grow at 50° night temperatures. Watch for white flies, aphids, thrips, and the foliage diseases rust and botrytis. Call for chemical suggestions if you need help. Supplemental lighting of 4 hours per night will cause blooms in early spring.


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 **Goldfish & Lipstick**- These houseplants are very slow. Use a well-drained soil and low feed. Try to grow these under a dark gutter where nothing else seems to grow. Allow 20 weeks for 4 plants per 10" basket to finish. Grow in 60° night temperatures.


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 **Hedera Ivy**- Use a well-drained soil with a pH of 5.5-6.5 and low feed. Watch for spider mites and mealy bugs. Plant several cuttings per pot to have a full one. Allow eight weeks at 60° night temperatures for 4" pots. Grow in low to medium light. Allow 12 weeks for 20 plants per 10" basket to finish. Our plugs have 3 ppp These plants are winter hardy.


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 **Helichrysum Licorice**- Also called Dusty Miller, this unique plant has white fuzzy leaves on fast growing vines (slightly upright). It makes a nice combination basket when used with blooming annuals. This variety likes bright light and well-drained soil with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. Grow at low feed 'til spring then use moderate feed. Plant 1 plant per 4" pot with 60° night temperatures. Pinch at 3 weeks and allow 6-8 weeks to finish. Plant 4 plants per 10" basket and allow 10 weeks to finish.


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 **Heliotrope Marine**- Heliotrope is a great landscape plant. Its purple flowers are very fragrant, and its mounding habit keeps the plant neat and clean. This variety prefers well-drained soil (pH 5.5-6.5), bright light, and 60° night temperatures. Feed at 150 ppm nitrogen. Allow 6-8 weeks in spring for 4"-5" pots to finish.


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 **Hemigraphis Exotica**- This variety prefers well-drained soil (pH 5.5-6.5), bright light, and 60° night temps. Feed at 150 ppm nitrogen. Recently we noticed this plant is great in the landscape. Almost black foliage with white flowers.


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 **Herbs**- These can be grown cool. Take special consideration when using chemical sprays on culinary herbs. Allow 6 weeks and perhaps a pinch to finish 4" pots. Most Herbs are winter hardy; Basil is not.


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 **Hibiscus**- This tropical Hibiscus has large, bright blooms and dark green foliage. Its upright shrub habit can grow up to 6' tall if left alone. Use well-drained soil with moderate feed (200 ppm nitrogen) and allow soil to dry moderately between watering. Plant 1 plant per 6" pot and pinch at 4 weeks or use chemical growth regulators. (Left untreated, this plant will grow leggy in humid greenhouse conditions.) Allow 8 weeks to finish. Plant 3 plants per 3 gal. container and allow 12 weeks to finish (don't forget to pinch). Watch for aphids, mealy bugs, and white flies.


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 **Impatiens, New Guinea**- These like bright light and well-drained soil. Watch for spider mites and thrips, especially as the weather warms toward spring. Allow 5 weeks for 1 plug per 4" pot. Allow 10 weeks for 4 plugs per 10" pot. Grow at 60° night temperatures.


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 **Ipomoea**- This variety flourishes in full sun. Grow at 60° night temperatures. Allow 4 weeks for 1 plant per 4" pot to finish. Allow 8-10 weeks for 4 plants per 10" basket to finish. Pinch as needed to keep plants from over-growing. Watch for aphids and spider mites.


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 **Lamium**- These varieties are perennial plants that range 6"-12" in height. They are used in hanging baskets and make nice additions to combination baskets: their pink flowers contrast with their silver foliage. Lamium also makes a good ground cover. These varieties like well-drained soil and high light (moderate sun). Lamium can tolerate cooler temperatures. Plant 4 plants per 10" basket and allow 8 weeks to finish.


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 **Lantana**- Grow these as annuals in full sun. Allow 4-6 weeks for 1 plant per 4" pot to finish. One pinch is recommended. *Florel* is good for young plants to increase branching; see Double Impatiens information about *Florel*. Practice good white fly monitoring & control. The chemical *Talus* has given us good white fly control.


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 **Lobelia Trailing**- Lobelia prefer cool temperature, but these two tolerate heat slightly better than seed varieties. Allow 8 weeks to fill 10" baskets at 4 ppp.


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 **Lotus Vine**- Nice trailing, gray foliage is set on fire with blooms usually by late spring. Grow in well drained soil in bright light with moderate feed. Allow 10-12 weeks for 10" baskets that may need pinching once. Can be grown cool.


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 **Mexican Heather-** A great landscape or container plant (not winter-hardy.) Plant in well-drained soil with a pH level between 5.5 and 6.5. Moderate feed and bright light will grow the best plant. Plant 1 plant per 4" pot with a 60° night temperature and allow 8 weeks to finish. Plant 4 plants per 10" pot and allow 8-10 weeks to finish.


 **Pellonia-** This trailing foliage plant is good for pots or hanging baskets. Plant 3 plants per 4" pot and allow 8 weeks to finish. Plant 10 plants per 10" basket and allow 12 weeks to finish. Grow in well-drained soil; never grow in saturated soil. Use low feed in low light. There are few insect problems, but an occasional drench with fungicide for soil borne diseases is good.


 **Peperomia-** The trailing foliage makes a wonderful hanging basket plant that reaches 2 feet in length with a growth habit that is compact and full. Plant in well-drained soil with a pH level of 6.0. Use low feed until root system is well-established. Then constant feed of 150 ppm with an occasional leaching of the soil with plain water. Do not allow soil to stay saturated. Epsom salts will add richness to the color of the foliage. For fast hanging baskets, plant 7-10 plants per 10" pot. Keep night temperature at 60°. Baskets are nice and ready for sale in 8-10 weeks.


 **Petunias-** Allow 8 weeks for 4 plants per 10" basket to finish. These can be grown cool, at 50° night or less temperatures, but allow more time. Maintain a good pH control of 5.0-6.0. A higher pH will cause iron deficiency. Practice good monitoring for thrips. Miniature petunias are mounding habit plants with quarter-sized blooms. Cut overgrown plants back for another show.


 **Philodendron-** Use well-drained soil with a pH between 5.5-6.5 and low feed. Watch for spider mites and mealy bugs. Several cuttings per pot should be used on these varieties (our starters have 3 plants per starter) because the more cuttings, the more full the pot. Allow 8 weeks at 60° night temperature for 4" pots. Grow in low to medium light. Plant 15 cuttings or 5 starter plants per 10" basket and allow 12 weeks to finish.


 **Phlox-** New breeding has developed heat and cool tolerant Phlox that are ever-blooming. They prefer bright light and cool temperatures. Plant 4 plants per 10" basket for 8-10 week finish time and 1 plant per 4" pot for a 4-6 week finish time. Phlox is a great landscape and combination plant. Start these warm & grow moderately dry. As root systems develop, you can cool down.


 **Piggyback Plant, Tolmiea-** flourishes in partial shade, a minimum temperature of 45°, somewhat humid air, and a rich, well-drained soil. The soil should be pretty moist at all times, especially in the summer. When the plants have a well-developed root system, diluted liquid fertilizer can be added at weekly intervals. Plant 3 cuttings per 10" basket and allow 8 weeks to finish. Watch for aphids and mealy bugs.


 **Pilea-** Use well-drained soil and medium light with low feed. Plant 1 plug per 4" pot to finish in 4-6 weeks. Plant 5 plugs per 10" basket to finish in 8-10 weeks. Plugs of small leaf types have multiple plants.

 **Plectranthus-** Possible length of 3-4 feet. Plant 1 plant per 4" pot and pinch at 3 weeks. Plant 7 plants per 10" basket. Grow in medium light with moderate feed. Allow 8 weeks to finish full baskets. Given more time, these plants make very large baskets. Grow at 55°-60° night temperatures for 8 weeks.

 **Pothos-** Use well-drained soil with a pH between 5.5-6.5 and low feed. Watch for spider mites and mealy bugs. Several cuttings per pot should be used on these varieties (our starters have 3 plants per starter) because the more cuttings, the more full the pot. Allow 8 weeks at 60° night temperature for 4" pots. Grow in low to medium light. Plant 15 cuttings or 5 starter plants per 10" basket and allow 12 weeks to finish.

 **Purple Passion, Gynura-** For a nice 4" pot, plant 2 starters per pot in well-drained soil. The pH should be about 6.0. Do not allow these to stay saturated, because plants are susceptible to stem rot when grown wet. Use low feed and bright light. Pinch as needed to promote lateral branching. Allow ten weeks for 7 plants per 10" basket to finish. Watch for aphids. Not a good summer plant since blooms have a strong odor.

 **Purslane, Portulaca Hybrid-** Grow these at 60° for 8-10 weeks. Watch for aphids and thrips. Try sticking these unrooted cuttings directly into baskets. Must have bright light. One of the best plants you can grow in hot, sunny locations. Purslane is a tough plant that stores water in it's succulent leaves.

 **Scaevola Blue Fan Flower-** This variety is great for hanging baskets! Its trailing foliage covers itself with pretty, sky-blue flowers. Use bright light, well-drained soil, feed at 200 ppm nitrogen, and 60° night temperatures. Plant 5 plants per 10" basket and allow 10 weeks to finish. Watch for spider mites.



**Senecio Ivy-** This “soft ivy” plant is not winter-hardy like Hedera Helix Ivy, but it is a faster grower. This variety fills pots with full, rich green foliage. Plant 1-2 plants per 4” pot and 60° night temperatures to finish in 6 weeks. Plant 4 plants per 10” basket and allow 8 weeks to finish.



**Setcreasea Purple Heart-** The large purple foliage on this variety makes it great for landscapes or combo baskets. Its upright habit can grow 18”-24” tall. Plant 1 plant per 4” pot at 60° night temp. and allow 3-4 weeks to finish. Low feed to start and moderate feed as the days lengthen in the spring. The pH should be between 5.5-6.5. This plant looks nice planted in a bed behind Yellow Alternanthera.



**Snapdragon Trailing-** Easy baskets loaded with flowers. Tough & winter hardy. Can grow cool 50° nights. 4 plants per pot make nice 10” baskets in 8-10 weeks. Watch for aphids.



**Spider Chlorophytum-** Medium light and well-drained soil with low to moderate feed. Start a 4” pot with 1 plant and allow 4-6 weeks at 60° night temperature. 3-4 plants per 10” basket will finish in 10 weeks. Great combo plant adding height and color.



**Springeri Fern-** Grows well in sun or shade. It has an upright sprawling habit that makes it useful in landscape applications or in pot culture (although not winter-hardy). This variety handles drought very well. Watch for aphids and mites. Plant 1 plug per 4” pot at 60° with low to medium feed to finish in 8-10 weeks. 3-4 plants per pot in 10” baskets need 16-20 weeks to finish.



**Streptocarpella Trailing-** These like cool temperatures and grow best in shaded areas. 1 plant per pot on 4” pots. If you plant by January, you will finish nicely for early spring. Well-drained soil and low feed with mild-temperature water (never use cold water). Grow at 55-60° night temperature. Hanging baskets need 4 plants per pot with 10 weeks to finish.



**Streptocarpus Pot Type-** Grow these during cool months—they are not hot weather plants. 1 plant per 4”-6” pot will finish in 6-8 weeks. A well-drained soil keeps root systems healthy. No cold water on foliage.



**Strobilanthes Persian Shield-** Tropical foliage plant that works well in landscape with purple and green foliage. Height up to 3 feet.



**Thunbergia, Black-eyed Susan-** Fast growing vines produce lots of flowers in full sun. Heat tolerant and easy to grow. Allow 8 weeks in the spring with 4 plants per 10” basket to finish. This is also a good trellis plant. Watch for aphids and white flies.



**Torenia Trailing-** makes a great hanging basket or ground cover. This variety likes well-drained soil and high light (moderate sun). It can tolerate cooler temperatures, down to 50° at night. Plant 4 plants per 10” basket and allow 10 weeks to finish. Torenia varieties are propagation prohibited by another breeder.



**Verbena Trailing-** Use well-drained soil with a pH between 5.5-6.5 and moderate feed. Watch for spider mites, white flies, and aphids. Verbena do not tolerate drought very well, so keep them moist. 4” pots will need only one plug per pot, pinched at 3 weeks. Grow in 55° night temperature to finish in 6-8 weeks. 10” baskets will need 4 plants per pot and 10 weeks to finish. Can be grown cooler even in cold frame if desired.



**Vinca Vine-** Grows nice on low feed in well drained soil of pH between 5.5-6.5. Can be grown in cool temperatures but the growth slows naturally with cooler temperatures. *Florel* treatments can help the foliage grow tighter and more full. Plant 6 cuttings, or 1-2 plugs, per 4” pot and pinch at 3 weeks. Feed at 150 ppm nitrogen and allow 6-8 weeks to finish. 10” baskets must be planted very full or mixed with filler plants to make a good head on the pot. Allow 10 weeks to finish. Very winter hardy.



**Wandering Jew-** These plants flourish in partial shade, humid air, and rich, well-drained soil with a minimum temperature of 55-60°. The soil should be pretty moist at all times, but especially in the summer. When the plants have developed a good root system, diluted liquid fertilizer can be fed at weekly intervals. Plant 15 cuttings (8 starter plugs) per 10” basket and allow 8 weeks to finish. Watch for aphids and mealybugs. The variegated varieties Tricolor, Rainbow, & Green/yellow may need an occasional pruning, due to the natural habit of reverting back to green. Grow Tricolor & Rainbow at low feed levels (starve them) and also allow them to get dry between watering and you will see the pink color become much richer.