

GrowerFacts

Alternanthera Purple Knight

(Alternanthera dentata)

Germination

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.3 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm with a 1:2 extraction).

Sowing

Cover the seed lightly with coarse vermiculite.
Germination takes 3 to 4 days.

Plug Production

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.3 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm with a 1:2 extraction).

Sowing

Cover the seed lightly with coarse vermiculite.
Germination takes 3 to 4 days.

Temperature

Germination: 72 to 76°F (22 to 24°C)

Cotyledon stage: 65 to 72°F (18 to 22°C)

True leaves: 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)

Hold plugs: 62 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

Light

Stage 1: Light is beneficial for uniform germination.

After germination: 1,000 to 2,500 f.c. (10,000 to 30,000 Lux).

Seedling maturity: Up to 5,000 f.c. (54,000 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

Humidity

Maintain 95% relative humidity until cotyledons emerge.

Soil Moisture

Keep soil moisture high until radicle emergence, then reduce moisture levels after the radicle penetrates the medium. Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

Fertilizer

At radicle emergence, apply 50 to 75 ppm N from 15-0-15. As cotyledons expand, increase to 100 to 150 ppm N.

Growth Regulators

Not needed.

Growing On to Finish

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.5 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

Temperature

Nights: 62 to 65°F (16 to 18°C)

Days: 65 to 75°F (18 to 24°C)

Light

Higher light levels result in deeper purple foliage.

Irrigation

Irrigate plants before they are wilted severely to avoid damage.

Fertilizer

Feed plants weekly with 200 ppm N in a complete fertilizer.

Growth Regulators

Growth regulators are generally not needed. However, if necessary, a Bonzi spray at about 30 to 45 ppm is effective in controlling height and spread. Do not use Cycocel, as phytotoxicity will occur.

Pinching

Pinching is not needed.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (406-cell plug tray): 4 to 5 weeks

Transplant to saleable 4-in. (10-cm) pot: 7 to 8 weeks

Container Size: 4 to 4.5-in.

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 1

Weeks From Transplant: 7-8

Container Size: 6 to 6.5-in.

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<http://www.panamseed.com/advancedsearch.aspx>

