

# Sparkle Gaura

*G. x lindheimeri*

**Approximate seed count (raw):** 1,820-2,380 S./oz. (65-85 S./g)

Key flowering facts:

- ☐ Sparkle Gaura is a first year-flowering perennial.
- ☐ Photoperiod response: a facultative long-day plant and requires 13 hours or longer daylength for uniform and faster flowering.
- ☐ Vernalization: Not required. May result in earlier flowering following a minimum of six weeks cold treatment.
- ☐ Flower timing:
  - Sown in January for Spring production, will flower naturally in early May to early June dependent on temperature.
  - Sown in July to early September for overwinter production, will flower mid to late May of the following year.

## Plug Production

### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm).

### Sowing

Sow 1 seed per cell to 288-plug tray. Covering seed with vermiculite is recommended.

**Stage 1** – Germination takes 5 to 6 days.

**Soil temperature:** 65 to 68°F (18 to 20°C)

**Light:** not required.

**Moisture:** Keep soil wet (level 4) during Stage 1.

**Humidity:** Maintain 95%+ relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

### Stage 2

**Soil temperature:** 66 to 70°F (19 to 21°C)

**Light:** Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

**Moisture:** Reduce soil moisture slightly (level 3 to 4) to allow the roots to penetrate into the media.

**Fertilizer:** Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (less than 100 ppm N/less than 0.7 mS/cm EC) from nitrate-form fertilizers with low phosphorous.

### Stage 3

**Soil temperature:** 65 to 67°F (18 to 19°C)

**Light:** Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

**Moisture:** Allow media to dry further until the surface becomes light brown (level 2) before watering. Keep the moisture to wet-dry cycle (moisture level 4 to 2).

**Fertilizer:** Increase fertilizer to rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC). If growth is slow, apply a balanced ammonium and nitrate-form fertilizer with

every other fertilization. Maintain medium pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and EC between 1.0 and 1.5 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

**Growth Regulators:** Generally not needed.

### Stage 4

**Soil temperature:** 59 to 64°F (15 to 18°C)

**Light:** Up to 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

**Moisture:** Same as Stage 3.

**Fertilizer:** Same as Stage 3.

**Note:** Gaura seed is a nutlet and may have up to 4 seeds, so there may be greater than one seedling per cell.

## Growing On to Finish

### Container Size

**4.5 to 6-in. (11 to 15-cm) or quart pots:** 1 plant per pot

**Gallon (18-cm) pots:** 1 plant per pot

### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm).

For overwinter production, bark-based media is recommended for better drainage to protect plants from root rot due to being too wet.

### Temperature

**Nights:** 50 to 64°F (10 to 18°C)

**Days:** 59 to 70°F (15 to 21°C)

Sparkle Gaura can be grown at lower temperatures (frost-free cold frame/poly house); however, crop times will be increased.

### Light

Maintain light levels as high as possible (DLI  $\geq$  15 mol) while maintaining moderate temperature.

### Photoperiod

Sparkle Gaura is a facultative long-day plant and requires 13 hours or longer daylength for uniform and faster flowering.

### Irrigation

Grow plant on slightly dry side but do not allow plant dry to wilt.

### Fertilizer

Apply fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N/1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm) using predominantly nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorus and high potassium. Maintain media EC at 1.5 to 2.0 mS/cm and pH at 5.8 to 6.2. For a constant fertilizer program, apply fertilizer at 75

to 100 ppm N (0.5 to 0.7 mS/cm) while maintaining the above recommended EC and pH ranges.

### Growth Regulators

Sparkle Gaura is responsive to tank mix of B-Nine/ Alar (daminozide) 2,500 ppm (3.0 g/l 85% formulation or 4.0 g/l of 64% formulation) and Cycocel (chlormequat) 750-1000 ppm (6.4-8.5 ml/l 11.8% formulation or 1.0-1.3 g/l of 75% formulation).



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Repeat if necessary.

**In northern European conditions:** 2,500 ppm BNine/

Alar (3.0 g/l 85% formulation or 4.0 g/l of 64% formulation) works well. Multiple applications may be necessary.

#### **Pinching**

Pinching is not needed.

#### **Spacing**

Can be grown pot tight.

### **Crop Scheduling**

**Sow to transplant (288-cell plug):** 5 to 6 weeks

**Transplant to flower (annual production):**

**Container**

**Size**

**Number  
of Plants**

**Warm**

**Production  
(@68F/20C)**

**Cold**

**Production  
(@55F/13C)**

4.5 to 5-in. (11

to 13-cm) or

Quart pot

1 plant

per pot

7 to 8 weeks 11 to 13

weeks

Gallon (18-cm)

pot or 6-in. (15-

cm)

1 plant

per pot

8 to 9 weeks 12 to 14

weeks

**Spring Production:** Sow in January for natural flowering in early May to early June dependent on temperature.

**Overwinter Production:** Sow in July to early September for natural flowering mid to late May of the following year.

Plants from overwinter production flower about 1 to 2 weeks earlier and are about 1/3 taller and bushier than plants from Spring production under the same environmental conditions.

#### **Common Problems**

**Insect:** Watch for aphids.

**Disease:** None

#### **Garden and Landscape Information**

□ Sparkle Gaura is first-year-flowering perennial in USDA Hardiness Zones 5b to 9. No vernalization is required.

□ Plant in full sun to part shade after all danger of frost is past.

□ Space plants 12 to 15 in. (30 to 38 cm) apart in well-drained soil.

□ After plants are established, Sparkle Gaura is quite drought tolerant.

□ In areas subject to wet winter conditions and frequent temperature fluctuations, roots may be prone to root rot pathogens affecting Gaura's ability to overwinter.

□ Garden height is 20 to 30 in. (50 to 75 cm); spread is 12 to 20 in. (30 to 50 cm).

**Note:** Growers should use the information presented

here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical

and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

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