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Portulaca

Duet® & Yubi® (Portulaca oleracea)

Portulaca is an easy choice for the hot summer landscape. The Yubi® Summer Joy series offers the widest range of colors on the market today. The vivid colors brighten any late summer landscape. They can be grown in 4"-8" pots and hanging baskets. Typical crop timing is 10 – 16 weeks including time in propagation.

Portulaca is available from the Paul Ecke Ranch as an unrooted or rooted cutting.

[Click here for live online inventory](#)

In the Greenhouse.....

Propagation

Portulaca can be propagated in various tray sizes including 72, 84, and 105's. Stick one cutting per cell.

Media

- Choose a well-drained aerated propagation media
- Avoid media containing peat moss which will hold too much water
- Choose a blended media with other components or inorganic media such as Oasis® or Rockwool®

Bottom Heat

- Bottom heat will promote healthy root development.
- Maintain bottom heat at 70-75°F/21-24°C.
- Mist will cool the media temperature. Monitor media temperature closely and frequently.

Rooting Hormones

- The use of rooting hormone is not required, however it may be beneficial in promoting uniformity and time to rooting.
- Either liquid or powder formulations work equally well. Choose a product with up to 3000 ppm IBA.

Misting

- Average days with mist vary from 4-7 days depending on environmental conditions in the greenhouse.
- Mist cuttings so they remain turgid but avoid over misting that results in saturated media.
- Over misting will result in slow rooting and possible problems with root rot and botrytis.

Pinching

- Cuttings may be pinched in propagation to control stretch.
- Any flower buds that form should continually be removed in propagation.

*Unrooted cuttings may defoliate during shipment, stem sections root easily and generate new leaves, and the impact on rooting speed is approximately 1 week.

Propagation Cycle: 4 weeks

Growing ON.....

Media

Choose a media with the following traits:

- Good aeration
- Porosity between 5-15%
- Sterile

Irrigation/Fertilization

- Avoid excess irrigation and fertilization throughout production.
- **Fertilizer regime:**
 - Begin fertilizing 2 weeks after transplant
 - Choose a complete balanced fertilizer complete with minor elements
 - Feed with 250 ppm nitrogen
 - A slow release product may also be used to supplement a constant liquid feed program and may provide improved performance for the consumer
- Maintain pH between 5.5-6.5.
- Optimum EC 2.5 mmhos. Provide periodic clear water applications if excess salts accumulate.

Temperature/Humidity

Portulaca grows best when kept warm.

Temperature regime:

Establishing temperatures: 65°F/18°C average daily temperature

Temperatures for growing on: 70°F/21°C average daily temperatures and 60F/15C night temperatures.

Relative Humidity:

Maintain relative humidity below 70% and provide good air circulation to avoid problems with botrytis.

Light

Portulaca prefers bright light.

For best results provide:

- 5000 foot candles/53,800 lux minimum
- 6000 foot candles/64,600 lux maximum

Spacing

Establish plants pot tight than space to::

- 4" pots – 5-6" centers (approximately 2 per sq. ft.)
- 6" pots/1 gallon – 14" centers
- 8" pots – 18" centers

Pinching

1st pinch – may be in propagation

2nd pinch – pinch out growing tips 2-3 weeks after transplant and trim plants as needed to shape.

Plant Growth Regulators

Plant growth regulators should not be necessary with adequate light levels.

Insect and Disease Concerns

Insects

- Aphids
- Fungus gnats
- Slugs/Snails

Diseases

- Botrytis
- Root and Stem Rots

For recommended chemical controls for disease and insects please consult [The Flower Fields Federal Disease Control Chart](#) (463K) and [The Flower Fields Federal Insect & Mite Control Chart](#) (541K) at www.ecke.com. Always consult the chemical's label for rates, mixing instructions and restrictions

Crop Scheduling

Container Size	# of cuttings per pot	Total crop time* (weeks)
4	1	6-8
6-8"	3-4	8-10
Colorbowls	3-6	8-12
Hanging Baskets	5-6	8-12

*Time to flower is advanced under warmer growing conditions.

If you have questions about Portulaca in production please post your question on our live bulletin board at www.EckeRanchTechHelp.com or call 760-753-1134 and choose option#3 for Technical Support.

[For high resolution images click here](#)

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