

# Garden Phlox Sweet Summer®

syngenta®flowers

## Culture Guide

**Botanical name:** *Phlox paniculata*

**Product form:** Vegetative

**Containers:** Quarts, Gallons

**Habit:** Upright

**Vernalization:** Not Required (First Year Flowering)

### Garden Specifications

**Garden Height:** 18–24" (45–60 cm) tall

**Garden Width:** 12–18" (30–45 cm) wide

**Exposure:** Full sun

**USDA zone:** 4–9

**AHS zone:** 12–1

**Product use:** Containers, Landscapes

### Propagation of Unrooted Cuttings

**Root emergence:** 7–10 days

**Rooting hormone:** Recommended. An overhead heavy spray to the cuttings (penetrating the rooting media) using water-soluble K-IBA at 750–1000 ppm 24–48 hours after sticking can hasten rooting.

**Bottom heat temp.:** 70–72 °F (21–22 °C) for the first three weeks. After roots are well developed, temperatures can be lowered to hold and tone the cuttings.

**Misting:** Mist schedules vary depending on light and temperature conditions. Apply minimal mist, just enough moisture to rehydrate the cuttings and keep them from wilting. Over misting of cuttings can lead to uneven callusing and delay in rooting. Misting should be significantly reduced after 3–4 days and after cuttings become fully hydrated. To help minimize the need to mist and still keeping the humidity high tenting of the trays has been shown to be helpful.

**Rec. tray size:** 105-cell (30 mm) or larger

**Propagation timing:** 6–7 weeks for a 105-cell plug; add more rooting time for significantly larger plug sizes.

### Temperature

**Day:** 64–66 °F (18–19 °C)

**Night:** 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

### Lighting

**Day extension lighting:** Beneficial to 14 hours

**Light intensity:** 1,000–1,200 foot candles (200–250 micro mols) for the first two weeks after sticking or until root development occurs. Light levels can be increased up to 3,000 foot candles (600 micro mols) as rooting increases and the cutting matures.



Sweet Summer® Fantasy Purple Bicolor

**Day length response:** Obligate long day

**Daily light integral:** 4–6 mols/day for the first two weeks after sticking or until root development occurs. DLI can be increased to greater than 12 mols/day after root formation.

**Media pH:** 5.8–6.2

**Media EC:** SME EC: 0.9–1.3 mS/cm, PourThru EC: 1.4–2.0 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** Begin fertilization at 100 ppm nitrogen when roots become visible. Rates can be increased up to 200 ppm nitrogen after roots become well developed. Use primarily Cal-Mag® Plus (calcium nitrate + magnesium nitrate) fertilizers in propagation to prevent unwanted stretch.

**Pinching:** Recommended

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** If necessary, B-Nine® WSG spray at 2,500 ppm can be used.

### Bulking and Vernalization

**Vernalization:** Not Required (First Year Flowering)

### Finishing

#### Temperature

**Day:** 76–78 °F (24–26 °C)

**Night:** 64–66 °F (18–19 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 70 °F (21 °C)

#### Lighting

**Day extension lighting:** Beneficial to 14 hours

**Light intensity:** 6,000–8,000 foot candles

**Day length response:** Obligate long day

**Daily light integral:** 14–16 mols/day

**Transplanting:** Transplant directly into the finished container. Place the rooting media slightly below the level of media in the container. Make sure that the root ball is covered and that the plug is situated in the center of the pot.

**Media pH:** 5.8–6.2

**Media EC:** SME EC: 1.5–2.1 mS/cm, PourThru EC: 2.3–3.2 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** 125–175 ppm N

**Pinching:** Yes, 1 pinch leaving 4–6 nodes is recommended either in propagation or 7–10 days prior to transplant

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** If necessary, a spray of B-Nine® WSG at 2,500 ppm combined with Sumagic® at 5 ppm can be used. Or a drench of Bonzi® at 3–4 ppm has also been shown to be effective.

**Tech tip:** Though bred with improved resistance to Powdery mildew, prevention sprays can be helpful when conditions are favorable.



Try Chrysal Alesco®, a postharvest foliar spray, to protect ethylene sensitive crops during shipping and retail

**Moisture level:** Media should be allowed to dry between irrigations. Alternate between moisture level 2 and 4.

**2 - MEDIUM:** Soil is light brown in color, no water can be extracted from soil, and soil will crumble apart.

**4 - WET:** Soil is dark brown but not shiny, no free water is seen at the surface of the soil, when pressed or squeezed water drips easily, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Common pests:** Aphids, Spider mites, Thrips, Whiteflies

**Common diseases:** Downy mildew, Cercospora Leaf Spot, Powdery mildew

## Scheduling

Size	Crop Time	Plants Per Pot
1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	10–12 weeks	1 ppp
3.0 quart to 2.0 gallon (7.5 to 10 inch)	10–12 weeks	3 ppp

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 105-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 70 °F (21 °C).

## Example crop schedule for a 2.5 quart

Weeks From Transplant	Description
1 week	Transplant one pinched liner per 2.5 quart pot
3 weeks	Evaluate the crop. If there are two or less shoots it may be necessary to pinch a second time
5 weeks	Spray with a plant growth regulator (PGR) to tone the crop
7 weeks	Spray with a fungicide to prevent any Powdery mildew
9 weeks	Finish the crop with a plant growth regulator (PGR) drench to hold before shipping
10 weeks	Finish



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