Technical Guide

DIANTHUS

'Wicked Witch' USPP#19824

License for propagation is required.

TRANSPLANT LINERS

Pot Size: Transplant liners into 4-, 6-inch (10, 15 cm) or 1-gallon (4 litre) pot with one cell per pot.

Media: Porous soil with good drainage.

Vernalization Trials: Vernalization trials are executed by placing cell flats in a cold greenhouse set at 38°F (3°C). Fluctuations in temperature occur based on natural day and nighttime temperatures in Lancaster, PA.

Vernalization Trial Results: In our trials, 72-cell liners vernalized for 10, 5 and 0 weeks were planted outdoors Week 14. Plants with liners vernalized for 10 weeks flowered 8 weeks after transplant. Plants with liners vernalized for 5 weeks flowered 10 weeks after transplant and plants from unvernalized liners flowered sporadically. Bulked plants began flowering in April but this is based on temperature and conditions.

GROWING ON

Media pH: Optimum not tested. Standard for 1-gallon (4 litre) pot is 5.5 to 6.5.

Media EC: Optimum not tested. Standard for 1-gallon (4 litre) pot is 1.5 to 3.

Moisture: Plants should be grown on the dryer side due to fine root system and tendency toward Fusarium.

Fertilizer: While actively growing, plants perform well with a constant liquid feed of 150 ppm nitrogen.

VARIETY FEATURES

- Long spring-blooming magenta-red flowers
- Heat tolerant
- Sport of popular 'Firewitch'
- Some rebloom in summer months

Dianthus 'Wicked Witch'

Dianthus 'Wicked Witch'

continued>>>

Supplemental Lighting: Not required when finishing in natural season. If forcing out of season, add 4-hour night interruption lighting for faster, more uniform flowering.
Temperature: If growing in a greenhouse, 68°F (20°C) night temperature is sufficient. Can be grown cooler if desired.
Common Pests: Aphids, spider mites.
Common Diseases: Fusarium.
Pinching: Not necessary.
Crop Maintenance: None.
Growth Regulators: Not necessary.

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

(Based upon outdoor trials in Lancaster, PA)
Plant unvernalized liners in late summer or early fall to bulk plants prior to over wintering for flowering plants in spring and best performance, or plant vernalized liners in spring.

CONTAINER STATISTICS

Light: Full sun
Flowering Container Height: 9 inches (23 cm)

GARDEN STATISTICS

Light: Full sun
Height: 8 to 9 inches (20 to 23 cm)
Spread: 18 inches (46 cm)
USDA Hardiness Zone: Zone 3 to 8; tested only to Zone 5 in our trials.

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