Technical Guide

HELENIUM

Mardi Gras ('Helbro') USPP #15124

License for propagation is required.

TRANSPLANT LINERS

Pot Size: 8-inch (20 cm) or 2-gallon (8 litre) pot with 1 plant per pot.

Media: Porous soil with good drainage.

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

Vernalization Trial Results: Vernalization is not required for flowering. In our trials, vernalized liners set bud earlier, but did not actually flower any earlier than plants grown from unvernalized liners.

GROWING ON

Media pH: 5.8 to 6.4.

Media EC: 1 to 1.5 mmhos/cm.

Moisture: Grow moist. Plants will require a lot of water once fully established.

Fertilizer: Constant liquid feed of 100 to 150 ppm nitrogen sufficient while actively growing.

Supplemental Lighting: Long days are required for flowering. There will be short, basal growth only under short days.

Temperature: Grow outdoors for best performance.

Common Pests: Aphids, spider mites.

Common Diseases: Powdery mildew, rust.

Pinching: Pinching is not required, but a pinch early on in the crop prior to bud set may benefit branching and shorten overall size. Our trials were grown from unpinched plants.

Crop Maintenance: Not required. Can cut plants in half when flowering is finished if necessary to hold in containers or in the ground.

VARIETY FEATURES

- Flowers are a mix of bright and dark orange, splashed with yellow
- A long-blooming garden favorite and excellent cut flower
- Taller, mid-sized plants suitable for mid to back of border
- Very showy, long-lived garden plant
- From nurseryman Bob Brown, the UK

Helenium Mardi Gras

Helenium Mardi Gras

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Growth Regulators: May be beneficial as these plants can be quite large. Apply prior to bud set. Recommend starting out with B-Nine application of 2500 ppm spray and repeat every 7 days. This was not trialed in Pennsylvania. Perhaps an even later plant date would allow flowering to occur on a shorter plant. Not trialed.

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

In our trials, unvernalized liners were transplanted Week 18 outdoors under drip tape. Plants started flowering in 9 weeks after transplant in early July and were in full flower by late July. Over a month of color with flowering through late August.

CONTAINER STATISTICS

Light: Full sun
Height: 30 to 32 inches (76 to 81 cm)

GARDEN STATISTICS

Light: Full sun
Height: 36 to 40 inches (91 to 102 cm)
Spread: 18 to 20 inches (46 to 51 cm)
USDA Hardiness Zone: 4 to 8
AHS Heat Zone: 8 to 1

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