

Variety Info

- Symphony series varieties are bred for 6" to 6½" production.
- Orchestra series varieties are bred for 4½" to 6" production.
- Both series of Gloxinias require the same basic cultural practices for production.
- Timing and recommended pot size varies between series. Within a given series, a larger pot produces a larger plant.
- No pinching is used with Gloxinias.

Handling Upon Receipt

- Unpack at once and place in the greenhouse. If coming off a refrigerated truck, allow plugs to come up to air temperature in a service area before moving to greenhouse.
- Check plugs for dryness and water as needed.
- It is best to plant plugs within a day or two after receipt. Do not wait more than 4 or 5 days until planting since plant growth can be stunted with premature flowering if plugs are left too long in the plug tray.

Planting

- Gloxinia plants should be planted deep. After planting, only ¼" to ½" of the growing tip and 2 leaf pairs should be visible.
- Plants not planted deeply enough will become floppy or have a leggy appearance when finished. Tall seedlings that may have stretched during shipment will finish fine when planted deeply.
- Do not pack the root medium during planting, which could reduce aeration and result in poor root development and stunted plant growth.
- Within 1 or 2 days after planting, a preventable fungicide drench should be applied.

Root Medium

- Gloxinias have a very fine root system, so a well-drained root medium is essential. Most well-drained, commercial soilless root media should be satisfactory.
- Soilless root media pH should be 5.8 to 6.2.

Irrigation

- Water quality (e.g., alkalinity, nutrient content, etc.) should be known to evaluate the potential effects on pH and plant nutrient availability.
- Water regularly, but do not over-water or keep plants too wet. Gloxinias perform beautifully on tube systems, capillary mat, or ebb and flow, but they can also be watered with an open hose.
- Water on the foliage is not harmful unless the water is too cold (below 50°F).
- Water early in the day to prevent having foliage wet overnight

Fertilization

- Gloxinias require moderate fertilization. Use Peat-Lite fertilizers like 15-16-17 or 20-10-20 alternated with calcium nitrate-based fertilizers, such as 15-0-15 or 17-5-17. Avoid the use of high ammonia-type fertilizers, such as 20-20-20 and MagAmp.
- Use 250 to 350 ppm nitrogen every second or third irrigation. Constant liquid fertilization of 125 to 175 ppm nitrogen can also be used. Use higher rates in winter.
- Foliage color should be a medium green. Twisted, curled or cupped foliage, or hard, brittle blue-green foliage are symptoms of excessive fertilizer, particularly nitrogen, and results in stunted plants. Yellow foliage usually indicates insufficient nutrition, so increase frequency of fertilization.

Light

- Light intensity for Gloxinias is intermediate between African Violets and Pot Mums. Use 2000 to 3000 footcandles. Generally little shade is needed from November through March. Extra shade is usually begun by mid March (south) or early April (north) to reduce light intensity. Up to 60% shade may be needed depending on the type of greenhouse cover.
- Excessive light of 3500 to 4000 footcandles can cause hardened, yellow foliage and small, gray-brown spots on leaves. It may also cause premature budding if temperatures are also excessive.
- Light intensity below 2000 footcandles will produce leggy plants with fewer flowers.

Temperature

- Greenhouse temperatures should range from 60 to 65°F at night with 75 to 85°F during the daytime. If plants are flowering too early, temperatures can be lowered to 52 to 55°F to retard development. Temperatures below 50°F can cause yellow to brown leaf spots.
- Water below 50°F can also cause foliage spotting and may delay production from injury to the fine root system. Use tempered water if needed during production.
 - Whenever the temperature differential between leaf temperature and water temperature exceeds 14°F, leaf spotting can occur.

Maximizing Flower Display

Market plants with 4 to 6 open flowers.

Very showy plants that are covered with flowers can be obtained by removing the first 2 elongating buds along with the 1 or 2 youngest leaves that are covering the buds. This allows 4 to 8 flowers to open at once, producing an irresistible plant.

Spacing

Within a given series, a larger pot produces a larger plant.

- 4" to 5": 8" x 8" to 9" x 9"
- 6": 12" x 12"

Height Control

- B-Nine will shorten the main stem and leaf petioles producing a sturdy, well-shaped plant. Apply a light foliar spray of 1250 ppm B-Nine when the first leaf pair reaches the edge of the pot (8 to 18 days after planting).
- A second application may be applied 7 to 10 days later for plants grown in low-light conditions (1600 to 2000 footcandles).
- Do not apply B-Nine later than 4 weeks after planting, since flowering may be delayed. However a 30 ppm Bonzi spray 1 to 2 weeks before flowering can be used if plants are growing larger than desired, especially during warm temperatures, to control height and flower stem stretch.

Insects

- Mites can attack Gloxinias. Mites cause the new center growth to turn slightly dark bronze and hard. The cyclamen mite or broad mite usually causes this.
- Thrips can cause major damage to Gloxinia at any stage of production. If allowed to get started, they are more difficult to control. **Early preventative programs are essential.**
- Monitor for thrips using yellow stick cards. Thrips are hard to find on Gloxinias not in flower. The insects usually bury themselves in the crown of the plant, feeding on the new growth.
- Monitor and spray other crops in your greenhouse which thrips are attracted to, such as Hedera or Gerbera.

Disease

- Within 1 or 2 days after planting, a preventative fungicide drench should be applied.
- A second fungicide drench may be applied 4 to 6 weeks later to prevent root disease during finishing.
- Apply a light foliar rinse (use water warmer than 50°F) to remove any fungicide residue after application to reduce possible injury to foliage.
- It is also important to provide good air circulation year-round to prevent leaf diseases like Botrytis. **Before using any pesticides, be sure they are registered for use. Follow label directions. The label is the law.**

Marketing Finished Plants

- Store/ship plants at 55 to 60°F. Leaves and flowers brown at temperatures below 50°F.
- If boxed or in dark for more than 3 days, bud drop may occur.
- Use 50 to 100 footcandles light at point of sales to allow proper flower bud opening.
- Avoid wetting foliage to prevent foliage spots.
- Orchestra Gloxinias can usually be sleeved for transport. Symphony Gloxinias have larger leaves that are easily broken when sleeved so they are typically shipped in cardboard or plastic shuttle trays.

Crop Planning

Symphony Gloxinias · Weeks to finish under average conditions
Northern regions add 1 week in winter ·
South Florida subtract 1 week year round

Plug Size	Plugs per pot	Spring 3/1 to 5/20	Summer 5/21 to 9/15	Fall 9/16 to 11/30	Winter 12/1 to 2/28
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36S	1 per 4½" or 5"	11	8	9-10	13
128	1 per 4½" or 5"	12	9	10-12	14

Orchestra Gloxinias · Weeks to finish under average conditions
Northern regions add 1 week in winter ·
South Florida subtract 1 week year round

Plug Size	Plugs per pot	Spring 3/1 to 5/20	Summer 5/21 to 9/15	Fall 9/16 to 11/30	Winter 12/1 to 2/28
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36S	1 per 6"	13	10	12	14
128	1 per 6"	13	11	12-13	15



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