

TECHNICAL GUIDE

Sempervivum sempervirens Hippie Chicks

Plug Culture

Germination: 14-25 days

Cover: Cover seed lightly after sowing

Sowing method: 3-5 seeds per plug

Media: pH 5.5-6.0; EC <1.0; 0.5-0.75

Temperature: 18-22 °C (64-72 °F)

Growing On

Media: Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 0-15 % clay, 0-15 % parts (e.g. bark, wood fibres, perlite, sand), 1-1,5 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 1-2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-9 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.5-7.0.

Temperature: Grow at 10-18 °C (50-64 °F) or outdoors. In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C (38-40 °F) or outdoors. Outdoor fleece cover needed. For wintering the roots development should be very good. In spring the plants start to grow for 10-12 weeks at 15-18 °C (58-64 °F). Cold temperatures of 10-12 °C (50-54 °F) will increase the cultivation time. A chilling period (vernalization) is required for flower initiation.

Fertilizer: Low-moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 80-100 ppm nitrogen (at 2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Very high nitrogen levels in substrate cause shoot stretching and the shoots fall apart. Don't fertilize after mid September. In spring fertilize 80-100 ppm nitrogen of a complete balanced fertilizer. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency (above pH 6.0) apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times.

Stages: Stage I Starts with the radicle breaking through the testa. The roots are touching the medium. Ends with fully developed cotyledons. Stage II Starts from fully developed cotyledons. Ends with the fully developed true leaf or true leaf pair. Stage III Starts from the fully developed true leaf or true leaf pair and ends with 80 % of the young plants being marketable. Stage IV All young plants are ready for sale and in the process of being hardened off. This stage lasts about 7 days.

Moisture Codes

Saturated (5) Water is easily observed when finger is pressed on cell. Water moves freely from the top of the plug to the bottom.

Wet (4) Media looks black and is not glistening. The media feels wet to the touch but there is very little water movement.

Moist (3) Water is not easily visible. When finger is pressed on the cell there is very little movement from top to bottom.

Medium (2) Media is not black, but now looks medium brown. There is no water movement when pressed with finger.

Dry (1) Media has changed color to a very light brown and is dry to the touch.

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