

Curry Plant *Helichrysum italicum*

Culture Guide

Botanical name: *Helichrysum italicum*

Product form: Vegetative

Containers: Packs, Pints, Quarts, Gallons

Habit: Mounded

Garden Specifications

Garden Height: 12–18" (30–45 cm) tall

Garden Width: 12–18" (30–45 cm) wide

Exposure: Full sun to shade

USDA zone: 10–11

AHS zone: 11–3

Product use: Packs, Containers, Landscapes, Patio Pots, Combos

Propagation of Unrooted Cuttings

Root emergence: 8–10 days

Rooting hormone: Not Recommended

Bottom heat temp.: 70–74 °F (21–23 °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 just enough moisture to rehydrate the cuttings and keep them from wilting. Cuttings should be hydrated and in a non-wilted stage within 24 hours after sticking. Cuttings that continue to wilt heavily after 24 hours will callus unevenly and will be delayed in rooting. CapSil® (spray adjuvant) can be sprayed on the cuttings at a rate of 2–4 oz/100 gal within 1–2 days after sticking to help in rehydration of the cuttings. Misting should be significantly reduced after 2–3 days and after cuttings become fully hydrated. Silver-foliage plants like *Helichrysum* typically don't respond well to continuous water sitting on the foliage for lengthy periods. If the foliage begins to look water-soaked or brown, then reduce misting and cover with ReeMay® fabric or plastic to provide a highly humid environment without excess misting.

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

Propagation timing: 3.5–4 weeks for a 105-cell plug; add more rooting time for significantly larger plug sizes.

Temperature

Day: 72–74 °F (22–23 °C)

Night: 72–74 °F (22–23 °C)

Lighting

Day extension lighting: Not necessary

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.

Day length response: Day neutral

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. Avoid high rates of fertilizer in propagation, as this can cause damage to the foliage.

Pinching: Not recommended

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): *Helichrysum italicum* is a bushy, dense-growing plant. It typically does not require any chemical growth regulation in propagation. Transplant on time to avoid stretched growth.

Finishing

Temperature

Day: 70–72 °F (21–22 °C)

Night: 62–64 °F (17–18 °C)

Average daily temperature: 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

Lighting

Day extension lighting: Not necessary

Light intensity: 4,000–6,000 foot candles

Day length response: Day neutral

Daily light integral: 16–18 mols/day

Transplanting: Transplant directly into the finished container. Place the rooting media slightly below the level of media in the container. Make sure the root ball is covered and that the cutting 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 is recommended 7–10 days after transplant.

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): *Helichrysum italicum* (Curry Plant) is a mounding, dense-growing plant. It has a compact to medium growth habit and should not require any chemical growth regulation. If plants get too large for their container, then it's best to trim the plants back to control growth.

Tech tip: *Helichrysum italicum* (Curry Plant) is a mounding plant that has low water and fertilizer requirements. Use plastic tenting or ReeMay® fabric during propagation if needed to keep high humidity and to minimize excess water on the foliage. Provide moderate to warm temperatures early on after transplant to get the plants established. Avoid over-saturated media and overly cool temperatures. *Helichrysum italicum* may form golden yellow flowers on very mature plants, but its main value is its unique silver-colored foliage. Trimming plants is the best way to control growth. The cultivar 'Icicles' is the primary variety on the market and the variety which is sold by Syngenta Flowers.



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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: Fungus gnats, Whiteflies

Common diseases: Botrytis, Fungal root rot

Scheduling

Size	Crop Time	Plants Per Pot
Large Packs	4 weeks	1 ppp
1.0 pint (4 inch)	5 weeks	1 ppp
1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)	5–6 weeks	1 ppp
1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	7–9 weeks	1–2 ppp
3.0 quart to 2.0 gallon (7.5 to 10 inch)	8–9 weeks	2–4 ppp

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 105-cell tray and finished at the recommended average daily temperature of 68 °F (20 °C).

Example crop schedule for a 1.0 pint

Weeks From Transplant	Description
1 week	Provide average daily temperatures of 68 °F (20 °C) and DLI levels above 15 mols/day. Pinch plants when they are rooted into the pot. Do not overwater and run plants lean on fertilizer
3 weeks	Scout plants for Botrytis. Check roots periodically for fungal root rot
5 weeks	Sale

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