

Echinacea Prairie Splendor™ Compact

Culture Guide



Botanical name: *Echinacea purpurea*

Product form: Seed

Containers: Gallons

Habit: Upright

Vernalization: Not Required (First Year Flowering)

Garden Specifications

Garden Height: 14–16" (35–40 cm) tall

Garden Width: 6–8" (15–20 cm) wide

Exposure: Full sun

USDA zone: 3–9

AHS zone: 11–3

Product use: Containers, Landscapes, Combos

Germination

Stages 1 & 2

Germination time: 4–6 days

Media temp: 70–75 °F (21–24 °C)

Chamber: Optional

Light: Not required for germination

Seed cover: Yes

Moisture level: 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.

Rec. tray size: 288-cell tray

Seeds per cell: 2–4

Young Plant Production

Stages 3 & 4

Temperature

Day: 64–66 °F (18–19 °C)

Night: 58–60 °F (14–16 °C)

Average daily temperature: 62 °F (17 °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 sowing or until root development occurs. Light levels can be increased up to 3,000 foot candles (600 micro mols) as rooting increases and the seedling matures.

Day length response: Obligate long day

Daily light integral: 10–12 mols/day

Media pH: 5.8–6.2



Media EC: SME EC: 0.9–1.3 mS/cm

Fertilizer: 125–175 ppm N

Moisture level: Media should be allowed to dry between irrigations. Alternate between moisture level 3 and 4.

3 - MOIST: Soil is brown in color, strongly squeezing the soil will extract a few drops of water, and trays are light with no visible bend.

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.

Pinching: No

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): Configure® applied as a spray 1 to 2 times at 300–600 ppm has been shown to increase basal branching with little effect on plant height.

Plug grow time: 6–7 weeks in a 288-cell tray

Comments: Grow plugs under short day conditions (>12 hours) to allow for bulking. Then provide long days to initiate flowering after approximately 7 true leaves are showing.

Bulking and Vernalization

Vernalization: Not Required (First Year Flowering)

Finishing

Temperature

Day: 74–76 °F (23–24 °C)

Night: 64–66 °F (18–19 °C)

Average daily temperature: 70 °F (21 °C)

Lighting

Day extension lighting: Beneficial to 14 hours

Light intensity: 6,000–8,000 foot candles

Day length response: Obligate long day

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 that the root ball is covered and that the plug 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: 75–125 ppm N

Pinching: No. Pinching is not recommended or needed.

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): While this is a naturally compact variety the following chemicals could be used. Bonzi® spray at 15 ppm using multiple applications, or Sumagic® spray at 5–10 ppm, or Bonzi® drench at 2–3 ppm but stop applications at visible bud.

Tech tip: While a first year flowering perennial, if grown at 40–50 °F (5–10 °C) for 6–10 weeks the plant will produce more branches and flower earlier.



Try Chrysal Alesco®, a postharvest foliar spray, to protect ethylene sensitive crops during shipping and retail

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Common pests: Aphids, Whiteflies

Common diseases: Powdery mildew, Fusarium, Fungal Leaf Spots

Scheduling

Size	Crop Time	Plants Per Pot
1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)	10–12 weeks	1–2 ppp
1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	10–12 weeks	3 ppp
3.0 quart to 2.0 gallon (7.5 to 10 inch)	10–12 weeks	3–4 ppp

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 288-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 70 °F (21 °C).

Example crop schedule for a 2.5 quart

Weeks From Transplant	Description
1 week	Transplant three 288-cell plugs in the center of the pot
5 weeks	Assess plant height for possible PGR application
7 weeks	Possible second PGR application
8 weeks	Powdery mildew prevention spray
10 weeks	Finish



Prairie Splendor™ Compact Dark Rose

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