

# Papaver Spring Fever®

## Culture Guide



**Botanical name:** *Papaver nudicaule*

**Product form:** Seed

**Containers:** Quarts, Gallons

**Habit:** Upright

**Vernalization:** Not required (First Year Flowering)

### Garden Specifications

**Garden Height:** 7–9" (17–22 cm) tall

**Garden Width:** 6–10" (15–25 cm) wide

**Exposure:** Part shade–Full sun

**USDA zone:** 3–7

**AHS zone:** 8–3

**Product use:** Landscapes

### Germination

Stages 1 & 2

**Germination time:** 7–12 days

**Media temp:** 64–68 °F (18–23 °C)

**Chamber:** Optional

**Light:** Not required for germination

**Seed cover:** No

**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:** 3

### Young Plant Production

Stage 3 & 4

#### **Temperature**

**Day:** 62–64 °F (17–18 °C)

**Night:** 60–62 °F (16–17 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 62 °F (17 °C)

#### **Lighting**

**Day extension lighting:** Not necessary

**Light intensity:** 200–250  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  for the first two weeks after sowing or until true leaf development occurs. Light levels can be increased up to 600  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  as rooting increases and the seedling matures.

**Day length response:** Day neutral

**Daily light integral:** 8–10  $\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$

**Media pH:** 5.5–5.9

**Media EC:** SME 0.5 to 0.75 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** 50–75 ppm N



**Moisture level:** Media should be allowed to dry between irrigations. Alternate between moisture level 2 and 3.

**2 - MEDIUM:** Soil is light brown in color, no water can be extracted from soil, and soil will crumble apart.

**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.

**Pinching:** No

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** If necessary, spray with B-Nine® WSG (daminozide) at 2,500 ppm.

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

**Comments:** Keep media pH <6.0 to prevent iron deficiency symptoms.

### Bulking and Vernalization

**Vernalization:** Not required (First Year Flowering)

### Finishing

#### **Temperature**

**Day:** 60–62 °F (16–17 °C)

**Night:** 58–60 °F (14–16 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 60 °F (16 °C)

#### **Lighting**

**Day extension lighting:** Not necessary

**Light intensity:** 1,200–1,600  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$

**Day length response:** Day neutral

**Daily light integral:** 12–14  $\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$

**Transplanting:** Transplant directly into the finished container. Place the rooting media slightly above 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:** 5.5–5.9

**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):** If necessary, spray B-Nine® WSG at 2,500 ppm to tone growth. A Bonzi® (paclobutrazol) drench at 2–3 ppm can be applied to hold plants for sale.

**Tech tip:** Growing under high light and cool growing temperatures improves overall quality.



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

**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:** Aphids, Spider Mites, Thrips

**Common diseases:** Bacterial Blight, Phytophthora, Powdery Mildew, Rhizoctonia

## Scheduling

Size	Crop Time	Plants Per Pot
1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)	6–7 weeks	1 ppp
1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	6–10 weeks	3 ppp

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 288-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 60 °F (16 °C).

## Example crop schedule for a 2.5 quart

Weeks From Transplant	Description
1 week	Transplant three 288-cell plugs in a tight cluster in the center of the container
4 weeks	Grow under cool temperatures a high light to minimize the need for growth regulators
7 weeks	Assess the need for growth regulators
10 weeks	Finish

Spring Fever® Mix

