

# Saxifraga Alpino™ Early



## Culture Guide

**Botanical name:** *Saxifraga* × *arendsii*

**Product form:** Vegetative

**Containers:** Quarts, Gallons

**Habit:** Mounding

**Vernalization:** Required

### Garden Specifications

**Garden Height:** 6–10" (15–25 cm) tall

**Garden Width:** 8–12" (20–30 cm) wide

**Exposure:** Part shade–Full sun

**USDA zone:** 4–8

**AHS zone:** 8–4

**Product use:** Containers, Landscapes, Combos

### Propagation of Unrooted Cuttings

**Root emergence:** 14–21 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. When possible, propagate under high humidity levels (90% relative humidity) with minimal mist. 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 3–4 days and after cuttings become fully hydrated.

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

**Propagation timing:** 7–9 weeks for a 105-cell plug; add more rooting time for significantly larger plug sizes.

### **Temperature**

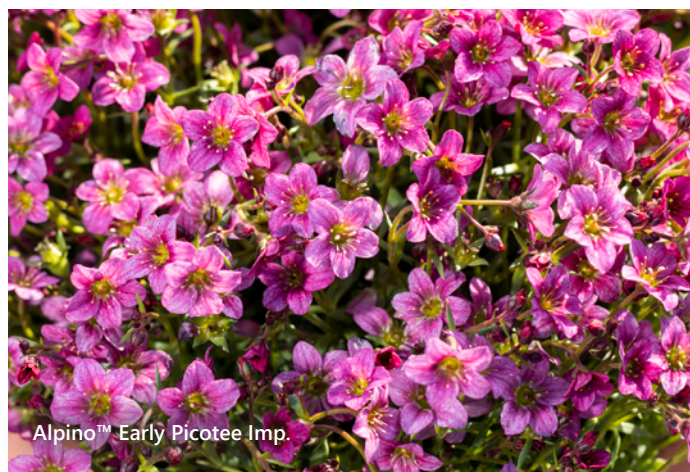
**Day:** 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

**Night:** 64–66 °F (18–19 °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 sticking or until root 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 cutting matures.



Alpino™ Early Picotee Imp.

**Day length response:** Day neutral

**Daily light integral (DLI):** 4–6  $\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$  for the first two weeks after sticking or until root development occurs. DLI can be increased to greater than 12  $\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$  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 + iron) fertilizers in propagation to prevent unwanted stretch.

**Pinching:** Not recommended

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** Not necessary.

**Tech Tip:** It is very important that the unrooted cuttings are in good contact with the media when sticking. Plants also benefit from early feeding in propagation.

### Bulking and Vernalization

**Vernalization:** Required

#### **Bulking**

**Bulking Time:** See Scheduling Section

**Temperature:** 60–62 °F (16–17 °C)

**Pinch:** No

**PGR:** Not Necessary

#### **Vernalization**

**Vernalization Time:** 6–7 weeks

**Temperature:** 40–45 °F (4–7 °C)

**Tech tip:** When bulking allow only enough time to grow the plant within 1" (2.5 cm) of the edge of the finish container before the start of vernalization. This will decrease the chance of disease and make growth more manageable in the spring.

### Finishing

#### Temperature

**Day:** 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

**Night:** 58–60 °F (14–16 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 64 °F (18 °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 (DLI):** 10–12  $\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$

**Transplanting:** Transplant directly into the finished container. Place the rooting media slightly even with 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:** 125–175 ppm N

**Pinching:** No. Pinching is not recommended or needed.

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** Not necessary.

**Tech tip:** Plant will continue to grow in size even after bud set, so do not get concerned if the plants are not yet up to size. Water only in the early morning to avoid any Botrytis concerns.



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 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.

**Common pests:** Aphids, Fungus Gnats

**Common diseases:** Botrytis, Powdery Mildew, Rust

### Scheduling

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

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 105-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 65 °F (18 °C).

### Example crop schedule for a 2.5 quart

Weeks From Transplant	Description
1 week	Transplant 1 ppp even with the soil level. Bulk at 65 °F (18 °C) ADT for six weeks
6 weeks	Complete bulking when the plants are within 1" (2.5 cm) from the edge of the container. Then drop the temperatures to 35–45 °F (2–7 °C) to start the vernalization process
12 weeks	Start to raise the temperatures to 66–68° F (19–20 °C) day and 58–60 °F (14–16 °C) night
18 weeks	Finish



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