**Diascia Darla®
Culture Guide**

**Botanical name:** Diascia barberae  
**Product form:** Vegetative  
**Containers:** Pints, Quarts, Gallons, Hanging Baskets  
**Habit:** Mounded

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**Garden Specifications**

**Garden Height:** 12–14" (30–35 cm) tall  
**Garden Width:** 12–14" (30–35 cm) wide  
**Exposure:** Full Sun  
**USDA zone:** 10–11  
**AHS zone:** 9–3  
**Product use:** Containers, Hanging Baskets, Landscapes, Patio Pots, Combos

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**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.  
**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.

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**Temperature**

**Day:** 72–74 °F (22–23 °C)  
**Night:** 62–64 °F (17–18 °C)  
**Average daily temperature:** 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

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**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

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**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.

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**Pinching:** Recommended  
**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** Darla has moderate vigor and will generally need a PGR treatment in propagation. To control growth after rooting, sprays of B-Nine® WSG (2,500 ppm) or Florel® (350 ppm) are sufficient. It is also becoming popular for growers to combine Florel® (350 ppm) with the B-Nine® WSG (1,500 ppm) to increase growth control and to improve branching. These Florel® + B-Nine® WSG combo sprays should be applied to actively growing plants. Do not spray B-Nine® WSG or Florel® + B-Nine® WSG tank mixes on stressed or weak cuttings. For all sprays listed above, the mist should be off for a minimum of one hour for the PGR to absorb into the leaf tissue.

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**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)

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**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: 200–250 ppm N

Pinching: Yes, 1 pinch is recommended 7–10 days after transplant if not previously done in propagation. A second pinch can be given to plants grown in large baskets and containers.

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): Darla has moderate vigor and might need chemical growth regulation, especially if grown under warmer temperatures. Sprays of B-Nine® WSG (2,500 ppm), Bonzi® (5 ppm), or Sumagic® (3 ppm) can be applied to control growth.

Tech tip: Avoid dehydration of the cuttings before sticking in propagation. Darla is best when grown cool with high light. No PGR is typically needed when plants are grown cool. One pinch is all that is needed for this crop. Florel® can be used early but will severely delay flowering if sprayed too late in the crop cycle. Watch for Botrytis in the crown of plants when overhead watering.

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, Whiteflies

Common diseases: Botrytis, Fungal root rot

Scheduling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Crop Time</th>
<th>Plants Per Pot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0 pint (4 inch)</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>1 ppp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)</td>
<td>6–7 weeks</td>
<td>1 ppp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)</td>
<td>8–10 weeks</td>
<td>1 ppp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 quart to 2.0 gallon (7.5 to 10 inch)</td>
<td>9–11 weeks</td>
<td>2–4 ppp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 1.5 gallon hanging basket

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks From Transplant</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>Provide average daily temperatures of 68 °F (20 °C) and DLI levels above 15 mols/day. Plants should have been previously pinched during propagation. Apply a preventative broad-spectrum fungicide drench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>Apply a spray of B-Nine® WSG (2,500 ppm) to control growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 weeks</td>
<td>Inspect plants for Botrytis and lower crown rot. Apply a preventative fungicide spray or srench if needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>Apply another spray of B-Nine® WSG (2,500 ppm) if needed to control growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 weeks</td>
<td>Sale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Darla® Light Pink

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