Osteospermum Tradewinds®
Culture Guide

Botanical name: Osteospermum ecklonis
Product form: Vegetative
Containers: Pints, Quarts, Hanging Baskets
Habit: Mounded

Garden Specifications
Garden Height: 12–14" (30–35 cm) tall
Garden Width: 12–14" (30–35 cm) wide
Exposure: Full Sun
USDA zone: 9 – 11
AHS zone: 10 – 2
Product use: Containers, Hanging Baskets, Landscapes, Patio Pots, Combos

Propagation of Unrooted Cuttings
Root emergence: 10–12 days
Rooting hormone: Recommended. A 0.1% (1,000 ppm) IBA concentration using either powder or liquid formulations can be applied to the lower portion of the cutting stem. Be careful not to coat the leaves or entire cutting—excess application can cause burning and damage to the cutting. Another option is to apply an overhead heavy spray to the cuttings (penetrating the rooting media) using water-soluble K-IBA at 250–300 ppm 24–48 hours after sticking. Do not use overhead applications of alcohol-based IBA solutions (ex. Dip ‘n Grow®).
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.
Rec. tray size: 105-cell (30 mm) or larger
Propagation timing: 4.5–5 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.

Pinching: Not Recommended

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): To keep plants under control, a spray of B-Nine® WSG (2,500 ppm) or B-Nine® WSG (2,500 ppm) + Cycocel® (1,000 ppm) can be applied after cuttings are well-rooted and vegetative growth begins. It is also becoming popular for growers to combine Florel® (350 ppm) with the B-Nine® WSG (1,500–2,500 ppm) to increase growth control and to improve branching. These Florel® + B-Nine® WSG combo sprays should be applied to actively growing plants and done ideally before pinching. 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.

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: 200–250 ppm N
Pinching: Yes, 1 pinch is recommended 7–10 days after transplant.

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): Tradewinds Osteospermums have a relatively compact, mounding to upright habit. To keep plants under control, sprays of B-Nine® WSG (2,500 ppm), B-Nine® WSG (2,500 ppm) + Cycocel® (1,000 ppm), or Sumagic® (5 ppm) can be applied to the plants as needed. A drench of Bonzi® (2 ppm) or Cycocel® (750–1,000 ppm) can be used mid to late in the crop cycle to control growth or hold plants before sale.

Tech tip: Do not reduce mist too soon during propagation. Continue light misting until all cuttings are rooted into the media. Reducing mist too early can result in slow and uneven rooting across the bench. Although Tradewinds are bred to flower at higher temperatures, cool temperatures and high light will help make the highest quality plants. If grown cool, no PGRs are typically needed. One pinch is recommended to make fully branched plants. The trailing types work especially well in baskets.

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, Thrips
Common diseases: 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>9–10 weeks</td>
<td>2–3 ppp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 gallon hanging basket (10 inch basket)</td>
<td>10–11 weeks</td>
<td>4 ppp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 gallon hanging basket (12 inch basket)</td>
<td>10–11 weeks</td>
<td>5 ppp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 gallon hanging basket (14 inch basket)</td>
<td>10–11 weeks</td>
<td>6 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 (ADT) of 68 °F (20 °C).

Example crop schedule for a 1.25 quart

<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. Pinch plants when they are rooted into the pot</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>4 weeks</td>
<td>Drop ADT to 66 °F (19 °C) and provide high light intensity. Scout plants regularly for pests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 weeks</td>
<td>Sale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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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, Thrips
Common diseases: Fungal root rot

Tradewinds® Terracotta

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