CROP MANUAL

Osteospermum ecklonis

Central Europe
North Europe

Tradewinds
Sirocco

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### Finished Plant Osteospermum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Leaf colour</th>
<th>Pot size</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tradewinds</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>10,5 - 12 cm</td>
<td>good branching, less flushing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sirocco</td>
<td>compact</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>9 - 11 cm</td>
<td>compact &amp; early flowering</td>
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</table>

#### Remarks

- Tradewinds is a medium growing, good branching and early flowering series with 7 colours.
- Sirocco is compact growing, good branching series with early flowering response.

#### Calendar Week Scheduling

| Calendar Week | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|               | P  | P  | P  | P  | P  | P  | P  | P  | F | F | F | F | F | F | F | F | F | F | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  | F  |
Cultivation Advice

Alter temperature set points according to light levels. In fall and winter light levels generally are low and temperature set points are best decreased for optimum plant quality. Please note that lower temperatures will increase culture time.

Tradewinds need low frequency of PGR.

Fertilization & Substrate

Use a well aeriated substrate, with a pH between 5.5 and 6.0.
Start the culture with an EC of 0.75 (1:2). Once plants are established and growing target EC is 2.0 – 2.3 (1:2).
N.K relation 1:1 in the start of the culture, and then switch to 1:1.5

Spacing

Crucial to space plants when foliage begin to touch neighboring plants. Do not delay spacing, delay will result in stretched and uneven plants.
End spacing 35-40 plants net/m²

Light

Use of supplemental light (14-16 hours, beginning at midnight) is beneficial for early Spring flowering.
Bright light contributes to compact plant habit, faster flowering and improved flower quality.

Irrigation

To establish a good plant with a strong root system, make sure not to over-saturate the growing media, which also prevents fungal diseases. Allow the media to dry out a little between irrigations in order to establish a stronger root system, but do not allow excessive drying, which will result in damaged leaves and flowers

PGR Applications

Depending on the temperature conditions PGR treatments can be necessary to control the habit and the production of a good quality product. Cycocel is the preferred PGR to use for Osteospermum. There is some variation between the series and varieties that needs to be taken in consideration before applying PGR.

Pests

Aphids, Thrips

Diseases

Downy mildew, Botrytis

Tips & Tricks

For good flower induction, plants need to be exposed to lower temperatures (below 12-14°C) for at least 2 weeks. Temp drops of approx. 6 hours during night time are often enough to induce flowers even if day temperature is higher.
## Recommendations

Culture guideline at optimum average daily temperature 16–18°C:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Culture week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Handling</td>
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<td>Temperature D/N</td>
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<td>Light</td>
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### Legend

- **Soil moisture level**
  - 5 saturated: water is easily observed. When the substrate is touched, water moves out freely from top to bottom.
  - 4 wet: water is not easily observed. When the substrate is touched, there is very little movement of water from top to bottom.
  - 3 moist: the substrate is black but not glistening. When the substrate is touched, there is water, but virtually no water movement.
  - 2 medium: the substrate turns form dark to medium brown. There is no water movement when touched.
  - 1 dry: the substrate changed color to very light brown.

- **Culture stages Cuttings / Seeds**
  - callus development / germ1, radicle emergence
  - root development / germ2, cotyledon expansion
  - leaf development / plug bulking
  - plug finishing / plug finishing

- **EC zones feeding mS/cm**
  - 1 0.5–1.0 mS/cm
  - 2 1.0–1.5 mS/cm
  - 3 1.5–2.0 mS/cm
  - 4 2.0–2.5 mS/cm
  - 5 2.5–3.0 mS/cm
  - 6 3.0–3.5 mS/cm

- **EC zones growing medium mS/cm (Sonneveld 1:1.5)**
  - 1 0.5–0.75 mS/cm
  - 2 0.75–1.0 mS/cm
  - 3 1.0–1.25 mS/cm
  - 4 1.25–1.5 mS/cm
  - 5 1.5–1.75 mS/cm
  - 6 1.75–2.0 mS/cm
  - 7 2.0–2.25 mS/cm

- **Temperature zones**
  - 1 0–6°C
  - 2 5–8°C
  - 3 8–12°C
  - 4 12–14°C
  - 5 14–16°C
  - 6 16–18°C
  - 7 18–20°C
  - 8 20–22°C
  - 9 >22°C

- **Light zones**
  - ☼ total darkness
  - ☀ short day <12 h/short day treatment
  - ☀ shadad
  - ☀ no-shading / natural light
  - ☀ supplemental light > 14 h/long day treatment
  - ☀ night interruption

- **Shading**
  - 1 shading > 250 Wm²
  - 2 shading > 450 Wm²
  - 3 shading > 750 Wm²

- **Soil growth regulator**
  - PGR
  - culture guideline at optimum average daily temperature 16–18°C:
  - 16°C
  - 10–12°C

- **Handling**
  - P
  - S

- **Culture week**
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5
  - 6
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  - 22

- **Legend**
  - PC plastic cover
  - L lift cover
  - G gapping
  - TP transplanting
  - T ypl transplanting
  - C cover to protect from frost
  - PGR PGR treatment (spray)
  - PD PGR treatment (drench) or heavy spray
  - DB disbudding
  - P potting
  - S spacing
  - F flowering
  - LF leaf removal and maintenance