

REGAL GERANIUM CULTURE

Elegance™ Series

PRODUCT FORMS AVAILABLE:

- Single shoot cuttings (which are budded but not pinched) are good for 4.5” to 5.5” pots.
- Multi-shoot cuttings (which are budded, pinched cuttings) are good for 6” and larger pots.

FINISHING OF PRE-BUDDED REGAL GERANIUMS (all product forms) – Cuttings should be transplanted into final container and spaced into the finishing environment. Grow 6” pots at 1 pot per square foot. Place 4.5” and 5.5” pots at 2½ pots per square foot.

- **Temperature:** Maintain 59°F (15°C) nights and 65°F (18°C) days. If you have heated floors run the soil temperature at 60°F.
- **Fertility:** Supply 200 to 250 ppm nitrogen and potassium constant liquid feed, using a balanced liquid fertilizer complete with micronutrients. Periodic applications of Epsom salts are also beneficial. Maintain EC below 1.0 mmhos. Regals are sensitive to excess soluble salts. If EC is above the recommended range, do not allow the plants to dry excessively. If the EC is below 1.0 mmhos, plants should be allowed to dry slightly between irrigations. Soil pH should range from 5.6-6.0.
- **Lighting:** Regals are light accumulators; high light levels and long days will enhance flowering. Provide 16 hour days September 15th through April 1st. These lights should supply a minimum of 10 foot candles at plant level (similar to Mum lights). Shade if light levels exceed 3,800 f.c., until the plants begin to show color. At this time, light levels should be reduced to 2,500 f.c. to extend the longevity of the flowers.
- **Moisture Management:** Until the first bud appears, the plants should be allowed to dry between irrigations to control vegetative growth. As flowers begin to develop, irrigation frequency should increase to avoid problems with flower bud abortion.
- **Height Control:** If plants are grown under adequate light levels, with moderate moisture and cool nights, height control should not be necessary. If needed, Regals will respond to Cycocel®. Apply Cycocel at 1,500 to 3,000 ppm as a spray until the buds begin to elongate. Cycocel can be applied at 7-14 day intervals. If this is the first time working with Cycocel on Regals test the application on a small number of plants first and always consult the label for further instructions.
- **Insect and Disease Concerns:** Whiteflies can be a concern on a Regal crop. Monitor populations using yellow sticky cards, and make necessary insecticide applications to control populations prior to flower development. Botrytis is also a major concern at all stages of the crop. Maintain relative humidity below 70% in the finishing environment, and provide good air circulation and ventilation. Water plants early in the day, and avoid overhead irrigation. Weekly fungicide sprays are beneficial for prevention of botrytis.

CROP TIMING* FOR VARIOUS PRODUCT FORMS:

- Single budded cutting 8-10 weeks
- Multi-shoot budded cutting 8-10 weeks

* Crop timing will vary depending on temperatures and light levels. Crop timing will be extended without the use of supplemental lighting if the crop is scheduled for production during the months between September 15th and April 1st.

SAMPLE SCHEDULES:

	Transplant	Finish
For VALENTINE’S DAY 2010 using rooted, budded cuttings	Week 48	Week 5
For EASTER 2010 using rooted, budded cuttings (1-C and 3-C)	Week 2	Week 12
For MOTHER’S DAY 2010 using rooted, budded cuttings (1-C and 3-C)	Week 9	Week 17

SHIPPING INFORMATION: Regals are very sensitive to ethylene in transit. Leaf yellowing and bud abortion may occur if time in transit is prolonged. For best results, ship plants with one or two open flowers and use Ethylblock.

Information courtesy of Ecke Geraniums LLC, Oglevee Products

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