

Cultural Information for: Portulaca Sun Dance™ Annual
Common Name: Purslane
Botanical Name: Portulaca Oleraceae
Optimum Growing Temperature: 68°F / 20°C

Propagation: 4 weeks

Tray: Choose from 72 – 105 cell density. 1 cutting per cell.

Media: Select a well-aerated sterile media or inorganic material (rockwool, foam). Avoid mixes containing Peat Moss as it holds excessive moisture. EC should be <0.75 mmhos (2:1 dilution) and the pH 5.5-6.5.

Light: Target 2,000 foot candles/22,000 lux.

Bottom Heat: Bottom heat promotes healthy root development. Target 70-75°F/21-24°C and ideally use tempered water in the mist lines to avoid overcooling the root zone.

Rooting Hormone: Not necessary, but it does promote uniformity. Choose a powder or liquid containing up to 3,000 ppm IBA.

Misting: Mist is not needed to root Portulaca, and it often promotes disease/rotting. It is best to moisten the media and then stick the cuttings. In areas of high heat, where the media dries quickly, some minimal misting for 3-4 days might prove beneficial.

Pinching: Pinch cuttings, if needed, to control stretch and continually remove any flower buds.

Note: Unrooted cuttings may defoliate during shipment. Stem sections will easily regenerate with new leaves, but rooting speed is delayed approximately one week.

Production:

Potting: Portulaca Sun Dance are suited for production in many sized containers and hanging baskets. Being drought tolerant, Sun Dance is ideal for consumers who spend weekends away from home.

Media: Select a sterile, well-aerated mix with 5-15% porosity. EC <0.75 mmhos (2:1 dilution). The optimum pH range is 5.5 to 6.5.

Irrigation/Fertilization: Avoid excessive irrigation throughout production. Commence fertilizing 2 weeks after transplant with a complete, balanced fertilizer at 250 ppm Nitrogen (constant liquid feed). Maintain the media pH at 5.5-6.5 and target the EC level at 2.5 mmhos (2:1 dilution). A slow release fertilizer is an option; especially for outdoor production where heavy summer rains are common. In addition, a slow release may provide improved consumer performance. Provide periodic clear water applications if excess soluble salts accumulate.

Temperature/Humidity: Establish the crop at an average daily temperature of 65°F/18° C. Once established, grow at 70°F/21°C average day and 60°F/15°C average night temperature. Provide good air circulation and a relative humidity below 70% to prevent Botrytis (gray mold).

Light: Bright light is ideal for this crop. For best results provide a minimum of 5,000 foot candles/54,000 lux, and shade above 6,000 foot candles/65,000 lux.

Spacing: Establish plants pot tight and then space to:

Container Size	Recommended Spacing
4 inch/10 cm.	5-6 inch/12-15 cm. on center
6 inch/15 cm.	14 inch/35 cm. on center
8 inch/20 cm.	18 inch/45 cm. on center

Pinching: The first pinch may be done in propagation, with an optional second pinch 2-3 weeks after transplant. Trim plants as needed to shape.

Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs): Plant growth regulators should not be necessary with adequate light levels.

Insects: Aphids, fungus gnats, slugs/snails.

Disease: Botrytis (gray mold), root and stem rot.

Crop Scheduling:

Container Size	Cuttings/Pot	Total crop time*
4 inch/10 cm.	1	6-8 weeks
6-8 inch/15-20 cm.	3-4	8-10 weeks
Color bowls	3-6	8-12 weeks
Hanging Baskets	5-6	8-12 weeks

**warm growing conditions reduce crop time*

“All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on North American conditions and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Application of recommended growth regulators and chemicals are subject to local and state regulations. Always follow manufacturer's label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.”