Torenia Little Kiss

Cultural Information for: Torenia Little Kiss Annual
Common Name: Torenia
Botanical Name: Torenia fournieri F1
Seed Count: /ounce /gram
Optimum Germination Temperature: 75°F / 24°C
Optimum Growing Temperature: 65-68°F / 18-20°C

Plug Culture – 4-5 weeks (288 / 12 x 24 tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-6) Select a well-drained media with a pH between 5.8 and 5.8 and a media EC > 0.75 mmhos (2:1 dilution). A 288 cell plug tray works well. Lightly cover the seed with medium vermiculite and maintain sufficient moisture and a soil temperature of 75°F/24°C.

Stage 2 (days 7-13) After emergence place the plug trays in a well-ventilated greenhouse with 2,500–3,000 foot candles/27,000-32,000 lux. Reduce the temperature to 65-68°F/18-20°C. Fertilize at 50-75 ppm N from a well balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation to establish strong and healthy seedlings. Provide horizontal air movement to reduce disease pressure.

Stage 3 (days 14-28) Water and fertilize as needed to maintain healthy plugs allowing the media to dry slightly in between. An application of 100 ppm N is recommended at least once a week. Avoid using ammonium nitrate and urea based fertilizers as these promote soft growth. Optimum EC level is 0.8-1.0 mmhos, (2:1 dilution). Watering early in the morning allows the foliage to dry thoroughly and prevents potential disease problems. If toning is needed, spray with B-Nine (daminozide) at 2,500 ppm/25% or A-Rest (ancymidol) at 4 ppm.

Stage 4 (days 29-35) Torenia develop rapidly and are often ready to transplant after four weeks under mid to late spring conditions). One can drop the air temperature to 60°F/16°C to hold plug trays for a few days.

Finished Production: 7-9 weeks

Container Size: Torenia is a dwarf variety with good branching. It is suitable for both packs and pots.

Media: Peat-lite mixes work well at a soil pH of 5.8 – 5.8 with an EC of 1.0-1.5 mmhos (2:1 dilution).

Light: Produce at 5,000-6,000 foot candles/54,000-65,000 lux. Shade as needed to reduce excess temperatures.

Temperature: Target a night temperature at 60-65°F/16-18°C with venting at 70°F/21°C. Warm temperatures can stretch the plants (above 75°F/24°C) if grown under hanging baskets. A morning DIF of 3-5°F/1-2°C works well to naturally promote compact plants.

Fertilizer: Fertilize at 150-200 ppm N using a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based fertilizer helps to produce plants of high quality. Cal/Mag formulations work well and supply valuable magnesium. Optimum EC level is 1.0 -1.5 mmhos (2:1 dilution).

Growth regulation: Being naturally compact, Little Kiss should not require chemical plant growth regulation. However, Bonzi (paclobutrazol) and Cycocel (ancymidol) are effective if needed. Given the naturally branching habit, pinching is not needed.

Insects: Aphids and thrips

Disease: Botrytis, powdery mildew, pythium and root rot. Good sanitation and growing culture will aid in keeping the plants healthy.

Scheduling:

Container Size	Transplant to finish	Total Crop Time
Cell pack	7-8 weeks	12 - 13 weeks
4 inch / 10 cm.	8-9 weeks	13 - 14 weeks

Torenia 'Little Kiss' has a mounding habit that ultimately grows 8 x 8 inches/20 x 20 cm. tall and wide. Continuous flowering in full sun or partial shade.

"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 America 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."

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North America · PO Box 880 · Morgan Hill, CA 95038-0880 · 408 778 7758 · fax 408 778 7768
www.sakataornamentals.com