

easy grow guide

lavatera novella

(Lavatera trimestris)



Plug Production: 200 plugs

Sowing/Media:	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.8-6.0, EC 1.0mmhos. Cover seed with coarse vermiculite.
Germination Stages 1 & 2:	Keep medium uniformly moist, media temperature should be 68-72°F (20-22°C), Light is not necessary for germination but aim for light levels of 1500-2000 f.c.
Germination Stage 3&4:	Maintain media temperature at 68-72°F (20-22°C) until the first true leaf is showing, then reduce to 65-68°F (18-20°C). Light levels should be maintained at <2000 f.c. Lavatera Novella is a long day plant so you can extend day length using HID lighting to reduce crop time in short days. Fertilize every other watering with 100-150ppm N from 15-5-15, 17-5-17, or 13-2-13, keep media pH 5.8-6.0 and EC <1.5mmhos. Maintain even moisture, avoiding extremes of wet and dry.
Growth Regulators:	A-Rest (1–5 ppm), Bonzi (1–3 ppm), or Sumagic (0.5–1 ppm) as an early stretch before germination has finished can help to control stretch and floppiness. Spray with B-Nine (2500 ppm), A-Rest (5-10 ppm), Bonzi (10–15 ppm), or Sumagic (2–5 ppm) as needed. Weather conditions and cultural practices directly affect how much growth regulator to use, so it is recommended that you run your own trials. Do not allow the plugs to become rootbound or hungry in the plug stage.

Growing On to Finish: Packs, 4" (10cm) pots

Media:	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.8-6.0, EC <1.5mmhos.
Temperatures:	Keep media temperature at 65-68°F (18-20°C) minimum night temperature until roots have developed and then lower to 58-60°F(14-16°C) minimum night temperature to grow on. Temperatures of 60°F (16°C) or below this will increase crop times but produce a stronger, better quality plant.
Light:	Keep light levels at 3000-5000 f.c. If growing under short days, supplementary lighting will reduce crop time.
Irrigation:	Maintain even moisture throughout the crop avoiding extremes of wet and dry. Wilting can cause yellowing of the lower leaves. Avoid getting water on the foliage in full sun as they may scorch the foliage.
Fertilizer:	Fertilize regularly with 100-150ppm N from 15-5-15 or 17-5-17, switching to a higher potassium fertiliser when buds start to form. Keep media pH 5.8-6.0 and EC no higher than 1.5-2.0 mmhos.
Growth Regulators:	Keeping the night temperatures cool helps to keep the height down. Alternatively up to 3 sprays of Cycocel at 1500ppm controls height effectively, if needed. It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as environmental conditions and cultural practices can affect results.
Pests:	Aphids, Whiteflies
Diseases:	Anthraxnose, Sclerotinia, scorched leaves – watering in full sun, yellow lower leaves – excessive wilting.

Plug Times:

200 Plug:	4-5 weeks
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Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to Finish	Total Crop Time
Packs: (sold green)	1 x plug per cell	4-5 weeks	8-10 weeks
4" (10cm):	1 x plug	9-10 weeks	13-15 weeks

Crop times are based on UK conditions. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can lengthen the crop times stated above.