

easy grow guide

portulaca sunnyside

(OP *Portulaca grandiflora*)



Plug Production: 512 or 288 plugs

Sowing/Media:	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.5-6.0, EC <0.75 mmhos. Sow 4-6 seeds/pellets per cell, no covering needed.
Germination Stages 1 & 2: (7 days)	Keep medium uniformly moist, not saturated and reduce once cotyledons are open. Media temperature should be 75-78°F (24-26°C) and high humidity, keep light levels <1500 f.c. Make sure daylength is 11 hours or more so use supplementary light to extend daylength if this can't be achieved naturally. Once radicles emerge temperature can be lowered to 71-73°F (22-23°C)
Germination Stage 3: (7-10 days)	Media temperature should be 68-72°F (20-22°C). Dry the media down between irrigations to improve rooting, control floppiness and encourage even seedling growth. Keep light levels between 2500 and 3000 f.c. 12-16 hour days will improve growth rate and HID lighting will be beneficial during periods of low light. Feed every other watering with 100-150ppm from 15-5-15, 17-5-17, avoid excess phosphorous and ammonium. EC 0.7-1.2 mmhos.
Germination Stage 4:	Media temperature can be lowered to 65-68°F (18-20°C). Dry down between irrigations. Keep light levels around 3000-4000 f.c. Fertilize as required using 15-5-15, 17-5-17 or 13-2-13 to help tone seedlings before transplant. PGRs should not be necessary

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

Media:	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.5-6.0 and EC <1.5 mmhos. Do not irrigate heavily immediately after transplant, water sparingly until roots reach the side of the container
Temperatures:	Temperatures for rooting out after transplant should be 70-72°F (21-22°C) Temperatures for growing on can be lowered to 68-70°F (20-21°C) but no lower as this will seriously affect crop time.
Light:	Light levels should be maintained at 3000 - 5000 f.c or higher as long as the temperature can be controlled. HID lights can be used to extend daylength beyond 12 hours if natural daylength is shorter. Light levels and daylength are crucial to ensure flowering.
Irrigation:	Practice a good wet/dry moisture cycle but avoid too wet! Portulaca can tolerate mild wilting and this is the best way to control plant growth and encourage flowering.
Fertilizer:	Feed 1-2 times per week with 150 - 200 ppm N from 15-5-15, 17-5-17 or 13-2-13 Keep media pH 5.5-6.0, EC 1.0-1.5 mmhos (saturated paste).
Growth Regulators:	Portulacas do not generally need PGRs as the height can be controlled by good moisture and fertilizer management, but you can use sprays of B-Nine (2500 ppm) or Bonzi (5-10 ppm) successfully if needed. It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements.
Pests:	Spider mites, Thrips.
Diseases:	Pythium, Rhizoctonia, poor rooting can be down to conditions being to cool and wet.

Plug Times:

512 Plug:	3-4 weeks from sowing to transplant
288 plug:	4-5 weeks from sowing to transplant

Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to Finish	Total Crop Time
Packs	1 x plug	5-6 weeks	8-11 weeks
4 inch (10cm):	1 x plug	6-7 weeks	9-12 weeks

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