GrowerFacts

PanAmericanSeed®

Perovskia Blue Steel

(Perovskia atriplicifolia)

Perennials Culture (revised 10/31/23)

Height: First year, 18 to 24 in./46 to 61 cm; second year and on, 30 to 36 in./76 to 91 cm
Spread: First year, 14 to 22 in./36 to 56 cm; second year and on, 20 to 38 in./51 to 97 cm

Plug crop time: 5 to 11 weeks
Transplant to finish: 9 to 15 weeks

It's tough as…STEEL!
A perennial first: Grow high-quality, affordable Perovskia from professional-grade seed. Blue Steel has higher and much more uniform germination than other seed varieties so you'll grow top-notch plugs easily and efficiently. No vernalisation or overwintering is needed, so production time is slashed. And grown beside leading vegetative varieties, you can't see a difference.

- Sturdy, controlled habit in the landscape is comparable to the vegetative leader.
- Aromatic, silvery foliage carries clouds of small blue flowers on strong silver stems that do not break or split easily.
- High flower show rate with 1 to 3 plugs per 1-gallon container or 3 to 5 per 2-gallon container.
- It's affordable to use multiple plugs in each pot and always finish with huge retail appeal.
- Pinch for optimal branching.
- Heat/drought tolerant, very hardy.

General Information

Exposure	Bloom Season	Height	Spread	Spacing
Sun	Summer, Late Summer	18-36 in. (46-91 cm)	14-28 in. (36-71 cm)	16-24 in. (41-61 cm)

Germination

Seed Form	Recommended Plug Size	Seeds/Cell	Plug Crop Weeks	Days from 50% to maximum germination	Initial Media pH/EC (1:2)	Cover Seed
RAW	288 72*	1 3-4	5-9 7-10	2-4	5.8-6.2 pH 0.75 mmhos/cm	Light cover

* Recommend plug size for forcing.

Plug Production

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Moisture	Level 4-5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2
Temperature	65-72°F (18-22°C)	65-72°F (18-22°C)	64-68°F (18-20°C)	60-65°F (16-18°C)
Light	Optional	6-8 $mol \cdot m^{-2} \cdot d^{-1}$	6-8 $mol \cdot m^{-2} \cdot d^{-1}$	6-8 $mol \cdot m^{-2} \cdot d^{-1}$
Fertiliser		100 to 175 ppm N (0.7 to 1.2 EC)	175 to 225 ppm N (1.2 to 1.5 EC)	175 to 225 ppm N (1.2 to 1.5 EC)
PGR		daminozide/2,500 ppm/Spray	daminozide/2,500 ppm/Spray	daminozide/2,500 ppm/Spray

Vernalisation

No

Propagation Key Tips

Light Accumulator, Daylength Neutral.
For forcing info: See Perennials Forcing Guide.
2 to 3 seeds per cell for larger plugs (128 and up): see GrowerFacts. For plug size 180 and larger, pinch* plugs at 3 to 4 node pairs. 288 plugs are difficult to pinch, so pinch at 2 to 3 weeks after transplant. Plug lead time varies with season and plug size: see GrowerFacts. Spray fungicide against damping off, directly after sowing.
*For larger (2 gallon and up) containers, plugs do not need to be pinched during plug production or after transplant. Instead, use a stronger PGR, B-Nine at 5,000 ppm 1 or 2 applications at 2 to 3 weeks after transplant.

Growing on to Finish

Growing on Temperature	Target Media pH/EC (1:2)	Fertiliser	Daylength
(day) 65-68°F (18-20°C) **(night)** 57-66°F (14-19°C)	5.8-6.2 pH 1.2-1.4 mmhos/cm	175 to 225 ppm N (1.2 to 1.5 EC)	Day Neutral

Daylength Notation

Light accumulator – higher light levels increase development and finish.

Crop Scheduling

Crop Type	Container Size	Plugs/Pot	Crop Time	Season	PGR
Annual	4"/4.5"/Quart/10 cm	1 (ppp)	12-14 (weeks)	Summer, ADT 68°F (20°C)	daminozide 2,500-3,000 ppm Spray
Annual	4"/4.5"/Quart/10 cm	1 (ppp)	14-16 (weeks)	Late Spring, ADT 68°F (20°C)	daminozide 2,500-3,000 ppm Spray
Annual	4"/4.5"/Quart/10 cm	1 (ppp)	12-14 (weeks)	Autumn, ADT 68°F (20°C)	daminozide 2,500-3,000 ppm Spray
Annual	5"/6"/1 Gallon/15 cm	1-3 (ppp)	12-14 (weeks)	Autumn, ADT 68°F (20°C)	daminozide 2,500-3,000 ppm Spray
Annual	5"/6"/1 Gallon/15 cm	1-3 (ppp)	14-16 (weeks)	Late Spring, ADT 68°F (20°C)	daminozide 2,500-3,000 ppm Spray
Annual	5"/6"/1 Gallon/15 cm	1-3 (ppp)	12-14 (weeks)	Summer, ADT 68°F (20°C)	daminozide 2,500-3,000 ppm Spray
Annual	8"/2 Gallon/20 cm	3-5 (ppp)	14-16 (weeks)	Late Spring, ADT 68°F (20°C)	daminozide 2,500-3,000 ppm Spray
Annual	8"/2 Gallon/20 cm	3-5 (ppp)	13-15 (weeks)	Autumn, ADT 68°F (20°C)	daminozide 3,000-5,000 ppm Spray
Annual	8"/2 Gallon/20 cm	3-5 (ppp)	13-15 (weeks)	Summer, ADT 68°F (20°C)	daminozide 3,000-5,000 ppm Spray

Fertiliser Notation

Blue Steel generally needs moderate fertilization. Use a balanced fertilizer at a rate of 150 to 200 ppm N as needed or constant liquid fertilizer at 75 to 100 ppm N with each irrigation. Increase potassium-to-nitrate ratio in later growing-on stage. Maintain media pH 5.8 to 6.2 and EC 1.2 to 1.5 mmhos/cm.

Common Problems

Insect: Spider Mites, Aphids, Whitefly. Disease: No serious problems. Leaf yellowing of older foliage: EC too low

Finishing Key Tips

Needs an active growing climate with the highest possible light levels. Optimum is more than 15 mol per m² per day. Can grow in lower light levels, but increases crop time (see lead time per season). Do not start crop too early in cold nights and lower light levels, which will cause a delay. Best grown outside. Finish lead times for Northwest Europe: add 2 to 3 weeks to indicated lead times. Allow media to dry in between waterings. Avoid growing wet. Monitor EC in pot during active growth to avoid leaf yellowing (chlorosis). Gallon is the main size; recommend 3 ppp, planted in a triangle, for superior finished quality (compared to vegetative with 1 plant per pot). If plugs are not pinched, pinch 2 to 3 weeks after transplant, above 4 to 5 leaf node pairs. NOTE: Pinch not needed for larger (2 gallon and up) containers. Instead, use higher B-Nine concentration of 5,000 ppm for 1 to 2 applications in the first 2 to 3 weeks after transplant.

NOTE: Growers should use the information presented here as guidelines only. PanAmerican Seed recommends that growers conduct a trial of products under their own conditions. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. It is the responsibility of the grower to confirm the treatment is available in their region as well as read and follow all the current label directions relating to the products. Nothing herein shall be deemed a warranty or guaranty by PanAmerican Seed of any products listed herein. PanAmerican Seed's terms and conditions of sale shall apply to all products listed herein.

Variety Pictures

Blue Steel

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