

## Grass *Eragrostis elliottii* Wind Dancer

(*Eragrostis curvula*)

### Germination

Approximate Seed Count (multi-seed pellet): 5,670 S/oz. (200 S/g)

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.1 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC less than 0.75 mmhos/cm with a 1:2 extraction).

#### Sowing

Each multi-seed pellet will generally yield 3 to 4 plants. Use one multi-pelleted seed per cell. Plug tray sizes from 406 to 288 cells are recommended. If desired, 128 cells are also suitable. Move the plug tray out of the chamber once the radicle emerges to avoid seedling stretch. Cover the seed with vermiculite is optional.

**Stage 1** -- Germination takes 2-3 days.

**Soil temperature:** 71 to 76°F (21 to 24°C).

**Light:** Light is optional.

**Moisture:** Keep soil wet (level 4) during Stage 1.

**Humidity:** Maintain 100% relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

### Plug Production

#### Media

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**Stage 1** -- Germination takes 2-3 days.

**Soil temperature:** 71 to 76°F (21 to 24°C).

**Light:** Light is optional.

**Moisture:** Keep soil wet (level 4) during Stage 1.

**Humidity:** Maintain 100% relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

#### Stage 2

**Soil temperature:** 64 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)

**Light:** Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

**Moisture:** Reduce soil moisture slightly (level 3) to allow root to penetrate into the media.

**Fertilizer:** Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (< 100 ppm N/ < 0.7 mS/cm EC) from nitrate form fertilizers with low phosphorous.

#### Stage 3

**Soil temperature:** 64 to 68°F (18 to 20°C)

**Light:** Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

**Moisture:** Allow media further dry to the surface become light brown (level 2) before watering. Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

**Fertilizer:** Increase fertilizer to rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N / 0.7-1.2 mS/cm EC).

**Growth Regulators:** Not needed.

#### Stage 4

**Soil temperature:** 64 to 66°F (18 to 19°C)

**Light:** Up to 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux) if temperature can be controlled.

**Moisture:** Same as stage 3.

**Fertilizer:** Same as stage 3.

**NOTE:** Wind Dancer plugs can be held for about 2 weeks without affecting the subsequent growth after transplanting provided they are adequately watered.

## Growing On to Finish

### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

### Temperature

**Nights:** 64 to 66°F (18 to 19°C)

**Days:** 66 to 74°F (19 to 23°C)

Plants can be grown under temperatures as low as 50°F (10°C) but the crop time will increase significantly.

Grow under cooler temperature will help make a more compact plant.

### Light

3,000 to 5,000 f.c. (30,000 to 54,000 Lux).

### Irrigation

Do not allow plants to dry out, as this will cause the foliage to become yellow.

### Fertilizer

Apply fertilizer 175-225ppm N (EC 1.2-1.5 mS/cm) once a week is adequate, but the plants can tolerate higher rates or more frequent fertilization. The heavier fertilization is, the faster the plants will grow.

### Growth Regulators

No effective growth regulators have been found.

### Pinching

Pinching is not needed.

### Crop Scheduling

**Sow to transplant (400 to 288-cell plug tray):** 3 to 4 weeks. Add one more week for a 128-cell plug tray.

### Transplant to saleable size:

**Container Size:** 306 premium pack

**Plants per Pot/Basket:** 1

**Weeks from Transplant:** 5-6

**Total Weeks:** 8-10

**Container Size:** 2.5-in. (6-cm) pot

**Plants per Pot/Basket:** 1

**Weeks from Transplant:** 4-5

**Total Weeks:** 7-9

**Container Size:** 4 to 4.5-in. (10 to 11-cm) pot

**Plants per Pot/Basket:** 1

**Weeks from Transplant:** 6-7

**Total Weeks:** 9-11

**Container Size:** 6 to 6.5-in. (15 to 16-cm) pot

**Plants per Pot/Basket:** 3

**Weeks from Transplant:** 6-7

**Total Weeks:** 9-11

**Container Size:** Gallon

**Plants per Pot/Basket:** 3

**Weeks from Transplant:** 6-7

**Total Weeks:** 9-11

### Common Problems

No major insect or disease issues.

**Note:** Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

## Post Production Care

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