

Lobelia fulgens ***Queen Victoria***

Cardinal Flower

Culture guide

Uses:

Perennial for border and cottage garden,
container plant, bedding, cut flower plants

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

30" / 75 cm

Crop time:

20-28 weeks

Sow time:

January-March for flowering in pots from July
onwards, June-August for flowering in pots the
following year, April-May for cut flower production
outdoors

Sowing method:

1 seed per plug for short day conditions
3-5 seeds per plug for long day condition,
because at long day the plants do not form a leaf
rosette.

Germination:

Germinates in 14-20 days at 65-72 °F (18-22 °C).
Light is required for germination.

Growing On:

Transplant plugs after 8-9 weeks. Grow on at
60-65 °F (15-18 °C). Vernalization is not required
for flower initiation. After transplant, maintain
temperatures of
60-65 °F (15-18 °C) for 7-8 weeks under long
days.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 15-30
% clay, 1-1,5 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer,
0-3 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-9 months),
iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 6.0-7.0. Field:
humus, sandy humus soils with a good drainage.
Standard fertilization: 60-80 g/m² of a slow
release fertilizer.

Temperature:

Grow at 15-18 °C, later decrease the temperature
to 10-15 °C, when the root development in pots is
very good. Cultivation outdoors is possible, too.
In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C or outdoors.
Outdoors fleece cover needed. *L. fulgens* are
very sensitive to very strong frost temperatures.
In spring the plants start to grow at 15-18 °C.
Cold temperatures at 10-12 °C will increase the
cultivation time. A chilling period (vernalization)
for flower initiation is not required.

Fertilization:

Moderate-high fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 150-200 ppm nitrogen (at 0 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Don't fertilize after mid September. In spring fertilize with 100-150 ppm nitrogen of a complete balanced fertilizer. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times. Field: If necessary according to analysis, improve the soil with 60-80 g/m² of a slow release fertilizer per year, applied in several portions.