

Lantana Lucky

(*Lantana camara*)

A Ball FloraPlant Product

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.75 to 0.80 mmhos and a pH of 5.6 to 5.9
- Stick cuttings immediately upon arrival. Lantana cuttings are prone to breakdown if stored even an additional 12 hours
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 68 to 74° F (20 to 23°C) until roots are visible
- A protective fungicide application should be made immediately after sticking
- Once roots are visible, the media should be kept moderately wet and never saturated. This will prevent iron deficiency and the associated chlorotic foliage which can develop
- Begin fertilization with 75 to 100 ppm N when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop
- As rooted cuttings develop, high light and moderate air temperatures should eliminate the need for chemical plant growth regulators (PGR)
- **Lucky** Lantana does not require pinching during propagation. However, to improve branching and habit, plants can be pinched 7 to 10 days before transplanting
- **Lucky** Lantana rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 24 to 28 days after sticking

Growing On to Finish

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2.

Temperature

- Nights: 62 to 68°F (17 to 20°C)
- Days: 75 to 85°F (24 to 29°C)

Light

- Keep light intensities above 5,000 f.c. (50,000 Lux)
- Low light levels promote stem stretch and poor flowering

Water

- During the first 10 to 14 days, water media sparingly and never saturate. Allow media to dry somewhat between waterings
- Avoid extended periods where the media is saturated, as this will cause root system problems

Fertilizer

- **Lucky** Lantana has moderate to heavy fertilizer requirements to keep the plants growing vigorously. Reducing the feed causes the plant to become woody with reduced flowering
- Use a balanced fertilizer at 200 to 250 ppm every watering to ensure maximum growth and flowering
- Excessive phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen will promote unwanted vegetative growth. Both should be provided in very limited quantities
- Controlled-release fertilizer can be used to supplement a liquid feed program
- Flush pots periodically with clear water to avoid build-up of salts

Pinching

- **Lucky** Lantana should be pinched 7 to 10 days after transplanting. When pinched, plants should be actively growing with roots at or near the edge of the pot. Depending on pot size and local conditions, **Lucky** Lantana should be pinched 1 to 3 times
- Florel promotes branching and improves the habit of Lantana. No Florel should be applied within 8 weeks of sale. A range of 300 to 400 ppm, applied 1 to 3 times should be used as a guideline. Florel must be applied to plants that are under no stress (water, temperature, etc.)

Controlling Growth

- **Lucky** Lantana is generally more compact and will require less PGRs than other lantanas
- Appropriate pinching, depending on pot size, combined with good crop culture and environment should minimize PGR applications. If needed, a tank mix of Cycocel (750 to 1,000 ppm) and B-Nine (2,000 to 3,000 ppm) applied 7 to 10 days after pinching will encourage the naturally mounded habit of **Lucky** Lantana
- **Lucky** Lantana is also very responsive to Bonzi (10 to 40 ppm) or Sumagic (5 to 20 ppm) applied as a spray
- These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all chemicals under their particular conditions

Common Problems

Insects: Aphids, thrips, whitefly, spider mites, leafminer

Diseases: Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, powdery mildew

All **Lucky** Lantana cuttings are derived from culture and virus-indexed stock from the **Ball Certified Plants®** program.

Problem: Plant collapse

Causes: Wet media for an extended period (Pythium, Botrytis)

Problem: Excess vegetative growth

Causes: High ammonia concentration in the soil; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light and over-watering; wet media

Problem: Poor branching

Causes: Low fertilization during early stages

Problem: Foliage necrosis

Causes: Drying out the plant between irrigations; High soluble salts in the soil; Powdery mildew

Problem: Foliage chlorosis

Causes: Low temperatures

Lucky Lantana Crop Schedule & Uses

Unrooted cuttings:

4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1–2 PP* 9 - 10 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pot 1–3 PP* 10 - 11 weeks
10-In. (25-Cm) Hanging Basket 3–5 PP* 13 - 15 weeks

Rooted cuttings:

4-In. (10-Cm) Pot 1–2 PP* 6 - 7 weeks
6-In. (15-Cm) Pot 1–3 PP* 7 - 8 weeks
10-In. (25-Cm) Hanging Basket 3–5 PP* 10 - 12 weeks

*PP: Plants per pot or basket

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.

