

FLORINI®

 HilverdaKooij
plant technology
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Cultural Instructions

CULTURAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR Florini® Pot snapdragon

General

Florini® snapdragon is grown from cuttings which has many advantages compared to plants grown from seeds: uniform and upright growing habits, high growing speed and available in unique, expressive colours. Florini® is fragrant, suitable for different pot sizes and particularly suited for garden and terrace. Florini® flowers abundantly from early spring until late fall and resists light frost during winter

Florabella®

The Florini® Florabella® hanging types are flowering from early spring till late fall. A better flowering time can be obtained by removing dead flowers. One of the main characteristics of the Florini® Florabella® hanging types is their spherical growth. Cultivation is similar to the other Florini® varieties

Compost and pot sizes

Pot size: 12 - 15 cm diameter (1 pinch)
15 cm diameter (double pinch in summer)
more than 15 cm 2 or more cuttings.

An important criterion for the quality of compost is the air/water ratio. A coarse soil, preferably mixed with 15% perlite, gives the best results. The optimum pH of the soil is between 5.5 and 6.5. High quality fertilisers must be added in slow release form. The following pattern may be adopted for unfertilised compost:

Additions per m³ (85% medium peat + 15% perlite):

- 4 kg. Dolokal
- 1.50 kg. P.G. mix
- 30 gr. Libro-mix

It is certainly worthwhile consulting your compost supplier.

Feeding and watering

Fertiliser is added during growth in the form of a soluble composite, which includes magnesium (e.g. 15-3-15-5). Initial fertilisation with calciumnitrate and 10-52-10 (Pokon) is recommended for a smooth start. Have soil samples taken regularly to check the feeding conditions! Limit maximum feed concentration to 1.5 E.C, because snapdragon is sensitive for a higher salt content.

The Florini® snapdragon needs plenty of water. However, if the crop gets too much water in spring, Florini® snapdragon will grow too tall. When the soil is kept too wet for a longer period more plants will fall out because of root rot. If water is added, make sure that the crop dries as quickly as possible. Watering should preferably take place in the morning. Overhead watering during cultivation is no problem provided clean water is being used. Nevertheless be careful with open flowers and see to it that the foliage dries quickly.

Further cultural instructions

The use of a watering mat or soil sheet helps to distribute the water better and restricts rooting through.

Normally plants need pinching at two leaf pairs (after approx. 2 weeks) to ensure good branching and growth. Some growers prefer not to pinch.

Spacing out

At the start of the season the pots can be placed next to each other. The space is widened only once, when the plants "touch". The plant density will then be about 35 - 40 plants per net m² (12 cm pot size). The growing temperature has a particular influence on growing speed. The optimum temperature is between 8 – 12°C. When the day temperature is kept lower than the night temperature the plants will grow more compact!

Adding CO₂ improves quality. The average harvesting date will then also be moved up to 1 week earlier. The optimum CO₂ content is approx. 700 - 1,000 ppm.

Growth retarder

Depending on the growing conditions (for example watering) practise has shown that it is necessary to apply a growth retarder. Wetter growing conditions aiming at heavier plants also need a growth retarder. Most used and most effective is Alar, Cycocel or Bonsi. Start with 0.3 – 0.4 % Alar, 0.15% Cycocel or 0.1% Bonsi and increase the dose dependent on the results.

Crop duration

The duration of growth depends on the light intensity (season) and the cropping measures applied. Under North European conditions, without lighting, the following may be taken as the norm:

time required for flowering:

The schedule below refers to the range of varieties offered by HilverdaKooij B.V. The duration of the crop depends on the prevailing temperatures and consequently may go on for a longer or shorter period of time.

Potting week 2 - flowering week 16

Potting week 12 - flowering week 20

We do not recommend potting after week 16. This mostly results in too quick flowering and flabby plants.

Pest/Disease control

Pests

- Aphids
- Thrip

Diseases:

- Botrytis
- Mildew (downy and powdery)
- Pythium

For control, consult the Guide to Plant Diseases

Labels

All plants will be delivered with a label.

We hope that these brief cultural instructions will make some contribution to the success of the cultivation of your Florini® pot snapdragon. You are always welcome to contact us for further information.

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