

SUN PARASOL® FIREDUP™ Culture Notes

Think of Sun Parasol FiredUp™ dipladenias as a new, but familiar, product. Plants are naturally freestanding and upright – no trellis required. Cultural practices are the same as for Sun Parasol Original varieties, but there are stronger height control strategies.

GROWING MEDIA

Choose peat lite or bark soils that drain well. Dipladenias should never sit in water. Ideal pH range is 6.0 to 6.5, although plants can tolerate a pH of 7.0.

LIGHT

Plants should be grown in full sun during fall, winter and spring. Thirty-percent shade is recommended in the summer to lower greenhouse temperatures.

Most varieties require 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of daylight to flower. Extending day length four hours at sunset during the winter months will produce more vegetative growth but is not necessary for May or June sales.

GROWING TIMES from 72 Cell Liners

6-inch pots – 1 plant, 8-12 weeks 8- and 10-inch pots – 2 plants, 14-16 weeks 12- and 14-inch pots – 3-4 plants, 16 weeks

GROWING TIMES from 21 Cell Liners

6-inch pots – 1 plant, 6-8 weeks 8- and 10-inch pots – 1-2 plants, 10 weeks 12- and 14-inch pots – 2-3 plants, 12-14 weeks

TEMPERATURE

The above production timing is based on growing temperatures of 60-65°F nights and 75°F days.

PINCHING & HEIGHT CONTROL

FiredUp Orange and FiredUp Coral are both upright growers that need to be pinched harder, 2-3 times. Give plants a hard pinch in November or December and a second hard pinch at the end of January or mid-February, depending on when you want them to flower. (A hard pinch is cutting the plant back by a third to a half.)

The last hard pinch should be 6-8 weeks before you want them to flower.

Recommended plant growth regulators (PGRs) include B-9 and Topflor:

- Use B-9 at 2500-3750 ppm two to three applications in March, two weeks apart.
- Use Topflor at 25-50 ppm once in early March. Spray to glisten leaves. (You don't want runoff going into the soil.)

Apply PGRs two weeks after the last hard pinch.

FERTILIZER

Constant feeding of 125-150 ppm and then with clear water every fourth watering works well. Use a calcium-based fertilizer such as 16-3-16, if water is acidic. If pH of water is more basic, use an acid fertilizer, such as Peters acid fertilizer, 15-5-25.

Plant growth does benefit from dressing with a slow-release fertilizer, such as Osmocote or Nutricote, but use at a reduced rate of one quarter to one half the rate if also using liquid feeding.

FUNGICIDES

After potting, drench with a broad-spectrum fungicide, such as Banrot or Mural at label rates and again 4-6 weeks later to control any root diseases.

For foliar diseases, such as leaf spot, use Postiva, Pageant or Thiophanate Methyl, such as Cleary 3336 at label rates.

INSECTICIDES

For mite control, use Epishield or Furious. Both provide excellent control, plus there is no re-entry interval. They do not kill eggs, so 2-3 applications are usually necessary. Phylo and Shuttle also work well. For thrips, Xxpire, Rycar or Pradia are all safe to use on dipladenias.







2024 Favorite New Flowering Plant, TPIE Show

> 2024 Cool Product Award, Garden Center Group

2024 Retailers' Choice Award, Garden Center Group



SUNTORY FLOWERS