

## *Culture Information*

# Pansy Trailing Cool Wave™

**Plant type:** Perennial treated as Biennial.

**Uses:** Bedding plants, patio pots, containers and baskets

**Sowing:** Use a well-drained, disease-free media. A pH range of 5.4 to 5.8 and EC less than 0.75 mmhos/cm (2:1 extraction) is recommended. Keep the Phosphorus level as low as possible to avoid initial stretch. A medium covering of coarse-grade vermiculite is recommended at sowing to help maintain humidity around the germinating seed for better germination performance.

Optimum germination temperature: 21- 24°C

Maintain 95 to 97% relative humidity until cotyledons emerge.

Germination takes approximately 2 to 3 days.

Plug tray size: Cool Wave™ should be produced in a 230 or 104 sized plug tray with one seed per cell. Smaller plug sizes will restrict the plant growth the plant growth and increase production time.

### **Approximate cropping times:**

Ball Sowing to Transplanting: 5-10 Weeks (104 Tray), 5-9 Weeks (230 Tray).  
(shorter if sowing in Summer/Autumn, longer if sowing Winter/early Spring)

104 to Flowering:

Delivery Weeks 6-8: 6-7 Weeks

Delivery Weeks 30-38: 6-8 Weeks for September to November sales

Delivery weeks 40-42: 20 Weeks (Over Wintered) for February to March sales

Ball 230 to Flowering:

Delivery Weeks 6-8: 7-8 Weeks

Delivery Weeks 30-38: 6-8 Weeks for September to November sales

Delivery Weeks 40-42: 22 Weeks (Over Wintered) for February to March sales

**Growing on:** It is important to transplant the plugs “on time” to avoid bud initiation in the plug.

**Media:** Use a well-drained, diseases-free media with a pH of 5.4 to 5.8 with a medium initial nutrient charge.

**Temperature:** Day 10-15°C  
Night 5-10°C

**pH:** 5.4-5.8

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**Feeding:** Start fertiliser a week after transplanting, apply nitrate-form with low phosphorus fertilizer once a week at 175 to 225ppm N/1.2 to 1.5mS/cm Ec  
For constant feeding programs, apply fertiliser at 125ppm N/1.0mS/cm Ec using a predominantly nitrate-form fertiliser with low phosphorus. If need alternate with a balanced ammonium and nitrate-form fertiliser to encourage growth and balance out the media pH.  
Maintain the growing media Ec at 1.25-1.5mS/cm and pH at 5.4-5.8. If the pH is higher than 6.2 take corrective measures.

Because **Cool Wave™ Trailing Pansies** have a vigorous and spreading habit they require more fertiliser to maintain good flowering and habit for their consumers. It is recommended to use a slow release fertiliser such as Osmocote 15-9-12 at a low medium rate as top dressing before final sale.

**Growth regulation:** The Cool Wave™ series does responded well to Daminozide if the crop needs a PGR. It is important not to apply PGR's in the plug stage, this will result in a poor spreading habit which may be delayed and stunted.

**Pack/Pot size:** 9-13cm pot. 30-40cm Basket.

We recommend using the Ball 230 plug for pack and small pot production and the Ball 104 plug to plant directly into baskets.

Only 3 plants of a Ball 104 Pansy Cool Wave plug are required to plant a typical 30-35cm (12-14") basket. This is one of the great attributes of this trailing Pansy. The plants love room for the roots to grow and thus producing a superior basket and shape.

**Advice:** Maintain optimal media moisture, i.e not too wet or too dry.  
Chemicals applied in high temperatures or plant stress can cause malformed growth.  
The crop needs to have good air circulation in well ventilated conditions

**Common diseases:** Downy Mildew - seen as upper surface leaf yellowing with grey/pink felt growth under the leaf.  
Powdery Mildew – white grey fluffy growth on upper leaf surface, powdery with age.  
Ramularia - brown papery leaf spot which is yellow edged.  
Thielaviopsis - black lesions on the root. High temperatures, high compost pH and stressed plants will be affected most. Fungicides can be used for prevention or control at early stages.

**Common Pests:** It is important to monitor the crop for Aphids, Shore and Sciarid flies.

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