



Darla®

DIASCIA BARBERAE

RECEIVING UNROOTED/CALLUSED CUTTINGS

Open the boxes upon arrival. Cuttings should be stuck as soon as possible. Cuttings may be temporarily stored overnight at 45 to 50°F (7 to 10°C) in open boxes.

ROOTING UNROOTED CUTTINGS

Root Emergence: 10 – 14 days.

Total Rooting Time: 21 – 24 days.

Preparation Prior to Arrival of Cuttings: Clean and disinfect propagation area. Place rooting media on the bench shortly before arrival of cuttings. Preservation of cutting quality is dependant upon how quickly cuttings are stuck into ideal propagation conditions.

Rooting Hormones: Rooting hormones will encourage uniform rooting. Determine proper concentrations prior to sticking the entire crop. Excess hormones can cause severe damage.

Disease Control: A preventative soil drench for Pythium can be made any time after sticking. Preventative sprays aid in controlling Botrytis. Excessive pesticide usage either in frequency or concentration may delay root development.

Moisture: Moisture level 4 (wet) — media is wet to the touch, but not saturated.

Ventilation: Ventilation and horizontal air flow fans are the most important tools in reducing Botrytis infections.

Air Temperature: 68 – 74°F (20 – 23°C).

Bottom Heat Temperature: 68 – 74°F (20 – 23°C).

pH: 5.6 – 6.

Light: To reduce stem stretch and to encourage branching, the plants should be grown under high light condition. Avoid unnecessary heat stress induced by high light and water stress.

Pinching: Diascia can be pinched 7 to 10 days before transplanting to improve branching and habit.

Fertilizer: Begin feeding with 75 to 100 ppm when roots become visible. Increase to 150 to 200 ppm nitrogen as the root mass develops.

FINISHING ROOTED CUTTINGS

Disease Prevention/Sanitation: Preventing plant disease is the easiest and most cost effective method to control potential disease problems. Prior to the arrival of your rooted cuttings disinfect all growing surfaces. Use only new pots and fresh media.

Media: Select a porous media that drains well. A pre-plant charge of micro- and macro-nutrients is recommended.

Pre-Plant: Thoroughly water the rooted cuttings until media is saturated. Moisten finish container media till wet to the touch, not saturated. Dibble a small hole to prevent breaking of delicate roots when transplanting rooted cuttings.

Transplanting: Transplant directly into finish container with rooting media level with soil in container. Rooting media above soil line will promote excessive drying out and wilting of the rooting cutting despite a moist environment.

Media pH: 5.6 to 6.

Moisture: Alternate Moisture level 4/2. Moisture level 4 (wet). Media is wet to the touch, but not saturated. Moisture level 2 (medium). Media has changed color from dark black to a medium brown. Irrigate early in the morning to allow foliage to dry before nightfall. Avoid high humidity and wet foliage.

Fertilizer: Constant liquid feed with a balanced fertilizer at 200 to 250 ppm nitrogen.

Temperature: 52 – 60°F (11 – 16°C) nights; 62 – 75°F (17 – 24°C) days.

Light: Provide 5,000 – 8,000 foot candles (50,000 – 80,000 lux). Diascia is dayneutral. Low light levels may promote stretching. Reduce light intensity when temperatures are high to prevent flower and leaf burning.

Pinching: Pinching is recommended to encourage basal branching. Pinch 7 – 10 days after transplanting.

Growth Regulators: If needed, B-Nine at 1,500 to 2,500 ppm can be applied 2 weeks after transplant.

Common Pests: Aphids, Thrips, Whitefly, Leafminers.

Common Diseases: Botrytis, Phythium, Rhizoctonia.

GARDEN PERFORMANCE

USDA Hardiness Zone: 11.

AHS Heat Zones: 4 – 1.

	Garden Height	Garden Width
Darla	6 – 8" (15 – 20 cm)	6 – 8" (15 – 20 cm)

DIASCIA SCHEDULING IN WEEKS

	Darla
Rooted to 4" finish	5 – 7
Rooted to 6" finish	7 – 9 (1 – 2 plants/pot)
Rooted to 10" basket finish	9 – 11 (4 – 5plants/basket)
Rooted to 12" basket finish	9 – 11 (4 – 5 plants/basket)

Note: These suggestions are only guidelines and may have to be altered to meet individual grower's needs. Check all chemical labels to verify registration for use in your region.

