



# Osteospermum



## Tradewinds®

### OSTEOSPERMUM ECKLONIS

#### RECEIVING UNROOTED/CALLUSED CUTTINGS

Open the boxes upon arrival. Cuttings should be stuck as soon as possible. Cuttings may be temporarily stored overnight at 42°F (8°C) in open boxes.

#### ROOTING UNROOTED CUTTINGS

**Disease Control:** If strict sanitation protocols are practiced, the need for fungicides may not be necessary. Should less than ideal conditions exist, 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. After roots are established, keep foliage as dry as possible.

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

**Humidity:** 90%+.

**Air Temperature:** 64 – 72°F (18 – 22°C).

**Bottom Heat Temperature:** 64 – 72°F (18 – 22°C) the first two weeks of rooting. After root initiation, reduce temperatures to 60°F (15°C).

**pH:** 5.5 – 6.

**Media EC:** 0.5 mS/cm in a saturated media extract (SME).

**Light:** Provide supplemental lighting under low light/short day conditions to prevent stretching. Supplemental lighting will also promote a more vigorous and uniform root system under low light conditions.

**Fertilizer:** If necessary, provide sufficient fertilizer to maintain a media EC of 0.5. The small charge in most media should be sufficient to support rooting.

**Growth Regulators:** Tradewinds have been bred for superior basal branching which eliminates the need for plant growth regulators during the rooting process. If PGRs are applied during the rooting process, exaggerated compact growth will create cultural challenges during the finishing stages.

#### FINISHING ROOTED CUTTINGS

Tradewinds is a breakthrough in Osteospermum breeding. Superior genetics allow Tradewinds to initiate flower under warmer temperatures, thus extending the growing season. Selected for compact habits and strong basal branching, Tradewinds are profitable to produce due to reduced needs for PGRs. Boost late-season and off-season sales with Tradewinds. Free-flowering even under warmer conditions, Tradewinds will not stall like the competition. Trials in Gilroy, CA, and Andijk, The Netherlands, have demonstrated that Tradewinds will flower through the summer and continue strong into the fall. With minimal input costs, Tradewinds allows growers opportunity to offer Osteospermum in addition to other traditional fall bedding plants.

**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. A preventative fungicidal drench may be applied after transplant.

**Media:** Select a coarse porous media that drains well. Many commercially available media work well for Osteospermum.

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

**Transplanting:** Transplant directly into finish container with the rooting media level with the potting media in the container. Planting too shallow will promote excessive drying out and wilting of the rooting cutting despite a moist environment.

**Media pH:** 5.5 – 6.5.

**Moisture:** Alternate Moisture Level 4/1.5 Moisture level 4 (wet) – media is wet to the touch, but not saturated. Moisture Level 1.5 (dry) – media has changed color to a light brown. Water early in the day to allow foliage to dry before nightfall.

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

**Fertilizer:** Osteospermum are heavy feeders. Constant liquid feed with a balanced fertilizer at 200 – 250 ppm nitrogen. Alternate between calcium and potassium nitrate-based fertilizers. Calcium is necessary to promote a strong plant; potassium will discourage stretching. A controlled release fertilizer may be beneficial for field production. Avoid ammonium, which may promote stretching. Excessive nitrogen will reduce the number of flowers produced.

**Media EC:** 1.5 – 2 mS/cm in an SME. High salts may promote marginal chlorosis and inconsistent branching. Calcium should help alleviate symptoms. Note: Cycocel drenches will increase EC levels.

**Temperature:** Osteospermum prefers cool conditions. Provide 60 – 75°F (16 – 24°C) days. After transplant use 55 – 65°F (13 – 18°C) nights to establish a strong root system and initiate flowering. Lower temperatures will delay flower development and increase crop time significantly. Tradewinds will continue to initiate bloom with night temperatures up to 68°F (20°C); however, the number of blooms produced may decrease with excessive temperatures.

**Vernalization:** Unlike some Osteospermum varieties, Tradewinds does not require as much cold treatment for flower initiation.

**Light:** As bright as possible, provide 5,000 – 9,000 foot candles. Osteospermum are dayneutral. A cool temperature in combination with high light promotes the highest quality plants. Low light levels may promote stretching.

**Pinching:** Tradewinds will produce a higher quality finished product when pinched. It may be more cost effective to pinch before or at the time of transplant. Pinch back to 4 nodes for a 4" pot, 5 – 6 nodes for a larger pot. Pinching will delay flowering by 1 week. All pot sizes should be pinched.

**Growth Regulators:** Begin PGRs when first shoots are approximately 0.5" long. Tradewinds respond to several PGR regimes. In PGR trials, the highest quality plants produced were treated with 1 – 2 ppm Bonzi drench. Other acceptable treatments included 1,000 ppm Cycocel drench or a tank mix of 500 ppm Cycocel /1,500 ppm B-Nine applied as a spray. Do not apply after buds are visible. Late applications may deform blooms. Excessive Cycocel can cause irreversible yellowing of the foliage.

**Common Pests:** Aphids, Fungus Gnats, Whitefly, Thrips, Spider Mites, Caterpillars, Leafminer.

**Common Diseases:** Botrytis, Powdery Mildew, Phytophthora, Verticillium, Root Rots, INSV, TSWV, Fusarium Oxyспорium.

#### GARDEN PERFORMANCE

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 9 – 11, tender perennial; frost tolerant to 24°F (-5°C).

**AHS Heat Zones:** 6 – 1.

	Garden Height	Garden Width
<b>Tradewinds</b>	16 – 20" (40 – 50 cm)	16 – 20" (40 – 50 cm)

#### OSTEOSPERMUM SCHEDULING IN WEEKS

	Tradewinds
<b>Rooted to 4" finish</b>	6 – 8 (1 plant/pot)
<b>Rooted to 6" finish</b>	10 – 12 (1 – 3 plants/pot)
<b>Rooted to 10" basket finish</b>	12 – 14 (3 – 4 plants/basket)
<b>Rooted to 12" basket finish</b>	13 – 15 (5 – 6 plants/basket)
Winter production is generally October 1 – March 31	

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.

