

# ***Delphinium hybrida***

## **BENARY'S PACIFIC**

### **Black Night**

Delphinium Hybrids, Larkspur

#### **Culture guide**

##### **Uses:**

Background plant, cut flower

##### **Exposure:**

Sun

##### **Garden height:**

47" / 120 cm

##### **Crop time:**

16 weeks

##### **Sow time:**

Outdoor forcing: March-April; Indoor forcing:

December-May

##### **Sowing method:**

2-3 seeds per plug

##### **Germination:**

20-30 days at temperatures of 59-68 °F (15-18 °C).

##### **Growing On:**

Grow on at 60-65 °F (15-18 °C)

##### **Media:**

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 10-30 % clay, 0-15 % parts (e.g. bark, sand, perlite), 1-2 kg /m<sup>3</sup>, complete balanced fertilizer. 2-4 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer (3-9 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH 5.5-6.5. Field: well-drained, moderate nutrition supply, humus, loamy soils. Standard fertilization: 60-80 g/m<sup>2</sup> slow release fertilizer (potassium balanced). Do not improve the soil with peat. Keep the soil open.

##### **Temperature:**

Grow at 15-18 °C (59-64,5 °F) or outdoors. In winter indoors frost free at 3-5 °C (37,5-41 °F) or outdoors. Outdoor fleece cover and dry substrate needed. In spring the plants start to grow for 10-12 weeks at 15-18 °C (59-64,5 °F). A chilling period for flower initiation is not required.

##### **Fertilization:**

High fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 100-150 ppm nitrogen (at 2 kg/m<sup>3</sup> slow release fertilizer in substrate), using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Don't fertilize after flowering or after early September. In spring fertilize with 100-150 ppm nitrogen using a complete balanced fertilizer. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of Iron deficiency apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times. The fertilization with slow release fertilizer is preferred to fertilization with complete balanced fertilizer, because the roots are very sensitive to high salt levels in

substrates. Avoid high fertilizer concentrations, it is advisable to fertilize several times with low concentrations weekly. Field: After harvest fertilize the plant additionally with 60-80 g/m<sup>2</sup> of a slow release and potassium balanced fertilizer. Don't fertilize after flowering.

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