

Technical Guide

PHLOX subulata

TRANSPLANT LINERS

Pot Size: Transplant liners into 4.5-inch (11 cm), quart (1 litre), 6-inch (15 cm), 1-gallon (4 litre) pot.

Plants per Pot:

Late Summer to Fall Planting 4.5 inch (11 cm), quart (1 litre), 6 inch (15 cm): one 128-cell or one 72-cell liner.

1 gallon (4 litre): one to two 128-cell liners or one 72-cell liner.

Mid-fall to Mid-winter Planting

(128 not recommended for this crop schedule)
4.5 inch (11 cm), quart (1 litre), 6 inch
(15 cm): one 72-cell liner.

1 gallon (4 litre): one to two 72-cell liners.

Media: Porous soil with good drainage. Avoid peat-based mixes. Good drainage is essential for Phlox subulata production.

Vernalization: Vernalization is required for bud set and uniform flowering. Vernalize plants at temperatures of 20° to 38°F (-7° to 3°C). In our trials, bulked plants that were overwintered in a cold greenhouse (heat at 35°F / 2°C), and moved outdoors in late March, were in full flower four weeks after moving outside. In addition to this trial, 72-cell liners vernalized in a cold greenhouse with heat set at 35°F (2°C) were transplanted and placed outdoors in late March. These plants flowered in about 6 weeks and remained in flower for 4 to 6 weeks. Timing is dependant on regional temperatures and conditions. This may differ from year to year.

GROWING ON

Media pH: 6.0 to 6.5.

Media EC: Optimum not tested. Standard for

1-gallon (4 litre) pot is 1.5 to 3.

Moisture: Avoid overwatering to prevent crown and root rot. Allow drying down between

VARIETY FEATURES

- Commonly known as Moss Phlox, Creeping Phlox, or Mountain Pinks
- Enjoyed for their prolific early spring flush of color
- Cheerful, bright colored flowers
- Versatile in the garden as groundcover, in the rock garden or border
- Deer resistant



Phlox subulata 'Candy Stripe'



Phlox subulata 'Emerald Blue



Phlox subulata 'Apple Blossom'



Phlox subulata 'Purple Beauty



Phlox subulata 'Crimson Beauty'



Phlox subulata 'Amazing Grace'

irrigations but do not allow plants to wilt. **Fertilizer:** While actively growing (above 60°F/16°C), plants perform well with a liquid feed of 150 to 200 ppm nitrogen every third irrigation. **Supplemental Lighting:** Not required when finishing in natural season. If forcing out of season, add 4-hour night interruption lighting for faster, more uniform flowering.

Temperature: If growing in a greenhouse, grow cool at 35° to 40°F (2° to 4°C) night temperatures and 50°F (10°C) day temperatures, increasing naturally as spring progresses. Finish outdoors for best results. Crops grown too warm will produce stretched stems.

Common Pests: Aphids, spider mites. **Common Diseases:** Thielaviopsis, Fusarium, Botrytis, Myrothecium, Alternaria.

Pinching: Pinch at least once in cell flat if growing from unrooted cuttings. Otherwise, no additional pinch is necessary.

Crop Maintenance: Spring and summer plantings can be trimmed if needed to encourage better branching. Do not trim plants after

mid-August since flower buds may be removed.

Growth Regulators: Not necessary.

Comments: While these plants are disease prone, Green Leaf Plants® strives to produce strong, healthy liners, which will give customers the advantage of fewer production losses. Additional disease prevention methods include using well-drained media, avoiding excessive nitrogen, providing good air circulation, keeping foliage dry overnight, limiting plant contact with growing area, and removing old plants and debris from the growing area. Sometimes sporadic flowering will occur in the fall. This is normal and plants will set more buds over the next several weeks of cold temperatures, so spring performance will not be compromised.

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

(Based upon trials in Lancaster, PA)
Most crops are started in late summer or early fall and overwintered at 28° to 38°F (-2° to 3°C) for early spring sales. Crops can also be started midfall through mid-winter in USDA Hardiness Zones 6b and colder using low heat

greenhouses. Overwinter by maintaining night temperatures between 35° and 40°F (2° to 4°C). Production of 128-cell liners is not recommended for this crop schedule. Do not cut plants back during or after vernalization.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Phlox subulata is commonly known as Moss Phlox, Creeping Phlox, or the Mountain Pinks. They are one of the best-known perennials and most enjoyed for their prolific early spring flush of color. Cheerful, bright colored flowers are welcome signals of warmer weather to come. Phlox subulata are quite versatile in the garden, serving well as a groundcover for steep slopes or any area, rock garden plant, or as a perennial border edger. Plus they are deer resistant!

BICOLOR

'Candy Stripe': White flowers with pink stripe

BLUE

'Emerald Blue': Clear lavender-blue flowers 'Emerald Cushion Blue': Lavender-blue flowers 'Oakington Blue Eyes': Sky-blue flowers

BLOOMS OF BRESSINGHAM®

PINK

'Apple Blossom': Pale pink blooms
'Drummon's Pink': Large candy-pink flowers
'Emerald Pink': Dark pink flowers with magenta eve

'Fort Hill': Deep pink fragrant flowers 'Millstream Daphne': Intense pink

'Ronsdorfer Beauty': Deep rose with darker centers

'Coral Eyes': Pale pink flowers with a coral-red eye.

PURPLE

'Purple Beauty': Deep purple blooms

RED

'Crimson Beauty': Rosy-red flowers 'Atropurpurea': Rich wine-red blooms 'Red Wings': Deep crimson flowers 'Scarlet Flame': Vivid scarlet red

WHITE

'Amazing Grace': White blooms with red center

'Snowflake': Pristine white flowers **'White Delight':** Bright whte flowers

CONTAINER STATISTICS

Light: Full sun

Flowering Container Height: 3 to 4 inches

(8 to 10 cm)

GARDEN STATISTICS

Light: Full sun

Mature Height: 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm)
Mature Width: 12 to 24 inches (30 to 61 cm)

USDA Hardiness Zone: Zones 2 to 8

AHS Heat Zone: 9 to 4



Phlox subulata 'Oakington Blue Eves'



Phlox subulata 'Millstream Daphine'



Phlox subulata 'Drummon's Pink'



Phlox subulata 'Coral Eyes'



Phlox subulata 'Emerald Pink'



Phlox subulata 'Atopurpurea'



Phlox subulata 'Snowflake'



Phlox subulata 'Ronsdorfer Beauty'



Phlox subulata 'White Delight'



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