

# Veronica Snowmass

## CULTIVATION GUIDE



- Beautiful blue-eyed, white petal flowers
- Zone 3-10
- Glossy evergreen foliage
- Deer resistant
- Attracts butterflies
- Easy to grow groundcover



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### Unrooted cuttings

Plant unrooted cuttings in premoistened rooting medium.

It is recommended to use a rooting hormone to assist with uniformity and yield of rooting.

Rooting soil temperature should be 70-72°F (21-24°C).

Cuttings should be placed under a low misting regime for the first 7-10 days. Humidity levels should be approximately 90% during this period. Reduce misting gradually once cuttings have begun to callus and develop roots.

Begin fertilization with 100 ppm N when roots become visible.

Average rooting time is 4-6 weeks.

**Rooted liners** - Plant liners even to slightly below soil surface.

### Growing Media and fertilizer

Well draining soil is recommended with adequate drainage.

Optimum soil pH of 5.5-6.2

Use a well balanced water soluble fertilizer with 75-100 ppm N with every irrigation or use 150 to 200 ppm as needed. Controlled-release fertilizers are commonly incorporated into the growing medium prior to planting at a rate equivalent to 0.9 to 1.1 pounds of elemental nitrogen per yard of growing medium. Regular testing of soil samples to monitor conditions is suggested.

### Watering

Veronica require average amounts of irrigation; they should be kept at moderate to moist moisture levels during production. The plants will exhibit chlorosis if they are kept overly wet. When irrigation is required, water them thoroughly and allow the substrate to dry slightly between waterings.

**Temperatures** - During the liner growing cycle minimum night temperature should be 55-60°F (13-15°C). The day temperature should be maintained at 65-75°F (18-24°C). Finished containers can be grown at 40-45°F nights (4.4-7°C) while bulking. Day temperatures should be no higher than 50°F (10°C). Average daily temperature of 60°F (15°C) is optimal. It is necessary for vernalization for flowering.

**Lighting** - Veronica are day neutral plants and can be grown under natural day lengths after vernalization. The day length does not have any effect on the time to flower or the number of blooms produced.

### Pinching

It is recommended to pinch the plants once the liners have rooted into finished container. Or if planting in fall, pinch the plants several weeks after they emerge from dormancy. Pinching them will result in fuller, better branched plants.

**Growth Regulators** - A Uniconazole (Sumagic) spray of 3-5 ppm can be used if the plants are growing too vigorously in the spring.

**Insects and Diseases** - Monitor regularly for thrips, whitefly and aphids.

Veronica is susceptible to downy mildew, powdery mildew, rust, botrytis and root rot.

### Grow time

To produce the fullest containers, it is best to bulk in the fall from liners. When fall planting, allow a minimum of six weeks for quart-sized containers and up to 10 weeks for bulking 1-gallon sized containers prior to overwintering. Veronica has a cold requirement for flowering. Plants will not flower unless they have been vernalized either as liners, in the final containers, Provide at least six weeks of cold temperatures 35-44°F (2-6°C) to satisfy the cold requirement. Vernalized liners may be used for spring planting but may be slower to finish by several weeks. The time to flower after vernalization is a function of temperature. When they are grown at 65-70°F (18-21°C) it will take approximately 10-12 weeks to flower.