

Culture advice of Dipladenia

Diamantina®

Both Dipladenia (bush types) and Mandevilla (vigourous types) grow in greenhouses.

The best cultural environmental conditions to grow Diamantina® are:

- **Light intensity**

That is the most important factor to grow the plants successfully.

Dipladenia are full sun plants and they stay compact only under maximum light exposure condition. The plants stretch as soon as the light intensity drops making it more difficult for them to bloom.

Growing under low light intensity increases the production lead-time.

Conversely, high light intensity shortens the time of production.

- **Temperature**

Warm climate is required to grow the plants.

There is a correlation between temperature and light. The required average production temperature is around 18°C. However, the temperature can go as high as 25 to 28°C only under the condition of maximum light intensity.

In case of overcast weather, it is recommended to lower the temperature to 12 to 14°C in order to avoid the stretching reaction to start. However, going lower than 12°C will result in damaging the plants.

- **And also:**

- Keep an excellent air circulation in the greenhouse during the day,
- Keep the glass clean in and out when using glass greenhouses,
- Renew the plastic coverage of the plastic greenhouse every 3 years.

The plantation step is essential to successfully grow Diamantina® Dipladenia:

- **Receipt of cuttings and young plants:**

Planting must be organized at time of receipt. This prevent the development of *Fusarium* and *Pythium*.

- **Sticking and plantation**

Use dust free peat with a pH of 5 to 5,5 maximum. Temperature will be maintained between 18 and 20°C for 3 to 4 weeks with a requested temperature of 20 to 22°C at tablet level.

- **Watering**

First watering is fertilizer free. Second one will be made using a 10/50/10 fertilizer with a concentration of 1 g/l. A 10/10/30 fertilizer with concentration of 0,5 g/l will be used after. Water regularly and make sure that the soil is always humid but keeps it away from water saturation.

Pinching technique is important to obtain a well balance structure of the plant. The following must be considered:

- **Number of pinching**

To produce bushy plants in 10, 13, 14, 17 cm pots or more, number of pinching required is:

- 2 pinching in 10 cm pots,
- 2 to 3 pinching in 13 to 14 cm pots,
- 3 to 4 pinching in 17 cm pots and more.

- **When pinching?**

The first one happens 3 to 4 weeks after plantation at the second level of leaves. The following pinching depend on the speed of the growth but usually happen one month to one month and a half after the first one (also at the second level of the new leaves).

- **Best conditions to pinch**

Plants must be disease free. Sunny weather and morning time are best practices. It is recommended to apply a healing treatment right after the pinching in order to prevent fungus contamination.

What you have to do to keep Diamantina® compact:

- **Pinching**

Frequent pinching keep the plants "*naturally*" compact.

- **Use of PGR's**

Only authorized PGR's can be used.

PGR applications occur after each pinching, one week after the first pinching, two weeks after the second one and three weeks after the third one.

Main pests and diseases that could occur on Diamantina® cultures are:

- **Fungi**

- ***Pythium***

Roots and stems turn black and dry. The plant dies from bottom to top. Use appropriate anti-fungus treatment to prevent *Pythium* contamination.

- ***Fusarium oxysporum***

Wilted old leaves that finally dry is best symptom of *Fusarium* contamination. Stems turn black from top to bottom. Vaisseles turn brown. Use clean soil, eliminate contaminated plants and use seaweed base powder to prevent *Fusarium* contamination.

- **Other fungi**

Most of *Oidium*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Botrytis*, *Colletotrichum* (Anthracnose),

Cercospora, *Corynespora*, *Phoma* contaminations are due to bad cultural practices: lack of light intensity, humidity in excess, too low temperature, inappropriate soil, pH either too high or too low.

Use authorized anti-fungus to cure contamination and adapt cultural practices accordingly.

- **Pests**

Which they are: Aphids, Cochineals, White flies, Tetranychus (red mites), Tarsonem, Thrips...

Use biocontrol technics or authorized treatments. Always keep an eye on any kind of "*strange*" plant behavior to act at the earlier stage possible of the pest contamination.

As with any culture, a general guideline is to keep a careful and regular eye on your plants to detect any signs of disease or pests.