

# easy grow guide

## physalis little lanterns

(OP Physalis peruviana)



### Plug Production: 288 plugs or larger

<b>Sowing/Media:</b>	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.5-5.8, EC <0.75 mmhos.
<b>Germination Stage 1: (7-14 days)</b>	Media should be saturated and humidity needs to be high until radicle emergence. Day and night Temperature should be 75-80°F (24-27°C). Light is required for germination but a very light covering of vermiculite or growing medium can aid humidity.
<b>Germination Stage 2: (14-21 days)</b>	Once radicles emerge, media temperature can be lowered to 70-75°F (21-24°C). Once cotyledons are fully open, allow the media to become moist, not saturated and maintain even moisture. Humidity can now be reduced, but only slightly. Keep light levels between 1000-2000 f.c. HID lights can be used to boost light levels during periods of low light.
<b>Germination Stages 3&amp;4:</b>	Temperature can now be kept around 65-70°F (18-21°C). Dry media down slightly between irrigations but avoid wilt as leaves can scorch. Increase light levels to around 2500 and 3000 f.c. Fertilize as required using balanced calcium fertiliser such as a 14-0-14 or 17-5-17 at 50-75ppm initially and increasing to 100ppm as seedlings develop. Reduce nitrogen level of fertilizer if growth becomes too green. Keep media pH at 5.5-5.8 and EC <1.0 mmhos.

### Growing On to Finish: 10" (25cm) Pot / 12" Hanging basket

<b>Media:</b>	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.8-6.2 and EC <1.2 mmhos.
<b>Temperatures:</b>	Day temperatures can be 60-75°F (16-24°C), night temperatures can be 55-65°F (13-18°C).
<b>Light:</b>	Light levels should be maintained at 3000-5000 f.c.
<b>Irrigation:</b>	Practice a good wet/dry moisture cycle but avoid wilt as this can cause leaf scorch.
<b>Fertilizer:</b>	Feed once per week with 100 – 150ppm N from a balanced fertiliser such as 15-5-15, 17-5-17. Over feeding can promote leafy plants and delay flowering so avoid excess fertiliser. Physalis can thrive in light, well drained soils. Keep media pH 5.8-6.2 and EC <1.2 mmhos.
<b>Growth Regulators:</b>	Good moisture and fertiliser management combined with the correct light levels and temperatures should limit the need for PGRs. It is not recommended that PGRs be used on any product that is to be consumed. This variety is naturally compact. <b>DO NOT USE</b>
<b>Pests:</b>	Thrips, RSM, Whitefly
<b>Diseases:</b>	Mildew (UK) Pythium, Botrytis, Fusarium,

### Plug Times:

<b>288 plug:</b>	24-42 days from sowing to transplant
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### Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to Finish	Total Crop Time
<b>10" Pot</b>	1 x plug	7-8 weeks	13-15 weeks
<b>12" Hanging Basket</b>	1 x plug	9-11 weeks	15-17 weeks

Crop times are based on optimum conditions. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can lengthen the crop times stated above.