

TECHNICAL GUIDE

Pennisetum villosum Fluffy

Plug Culture

Germination: Optimum conditions for seedling development, beginning on the day of sowing until radicle emergence. Expect germination in 3-6 days.

Cover: Cover the seeds. Light is not required for germination.

Sowing method: 4-6 seeds per plug.

Media: pH 5.5-6.2; EC <0.7

Temperature: 22-24 °C (72-76 °F) until radicle emergence, then reduce to 20 °C (68 °F) during day and night.

Moisture: Begin with a saturated (5) for the first week. Then keep the moisture constant between moisture levels wet (4) and moist (3).

Light: Supplemental lighting is not needed in the plug stage. If desired, provide light levels up to 35,000 lx before transplanting.

Fertilizer: Maintain an EC <0.7. Use a nitrate-based fertilizer with low phosphorus. Feeding should start <100 ppm N.

Growth Regulators: When sowing directly into the final pot, a spray of paclobutrazol at 6-8 ppm should be applied 4 weeks after sowing. Repetition can be required 10 days later.

Growing On

Media: pH 5.8-6.2; EC 1.0-1.2

Temperature: 15-18 °C (58-64 °F) during day and night. Plants are sensitive to frost. Higher temperatures shorten the crop time of this warm-season crop.

Moisture: A rather dry cultivation is recommended to support an upright and compact growth of the plants. But avoid drought stress or overwatering.

Light: High light levels and long days >13 hours are required to force plants into plume. Provide light levels up to 65,000 lx.

Fertilizer: Feed moderate with 150-200 ppm N using a nitrate-based fertilizer with low phosphorus.

Growth Regulators: If needed, a spray of 5 ppm paclobutrazol three weeks after transplanting is helpful. The application can be repeated two weeks later.

Pests & Diseases: Aphids, thrips, leaf miners, whiteflies.

Timing & Positioning Charts

Plug Crop Time	
288 tray	4-5 wks
Finished Crop Time (from 288 tray)	
15-19 cm (6-7") pots (3")	10-12 wks

*plants per pot

Moisture Codes

Saturated (5) Water is easily observed when finger is pressed on cell. Water moves freely from the top of the plug to the bottom.

Wet (4) Media looks black and is not glistening. The media feels wet to the touch but there is very little water movement.

Moist (3) Water is not easily visible. When finger is pressed on the cell there is very little movement from top to bottom.

Medium (2) Media is not black, but now looks medium brown. There is no water movement when pressed with finger.

Dry (1) Media has changed color to a very light brown and is dry to the touch.

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