Culture Sheet: *Technical Information for Growers*

Name: ***Amsonia spp.*** **Common name:** bluestar

Scheduling Information

Available sizes: 72, LP32, LP50 **Sales Window:** summer, winter

Plug size	72
Finish size	1 gal
Weeks to finish	Spring following year
When to pot	late spring-summer

Growing on to Finish

Media:	Professional potting media with good drainage – bark-based mixes work well
pH:	5.6-6.2
EC:	2.0-3.0 pour through method
Irrigation:	Allow plants to dry between waterings.
Fertilizer:	Using water-soluble fertilizers, 75-100ppm nitrates with every irrigation or 150-200ppm every other watering
Light:	High light, no supplemental lighting required
Temperature:	Growing: 65-75°F Holding: 40-50°F
Pest & Disease:	No serious pests at this time. Mycosphaerella leaf spot and rust
Pinching:	Pinch or trim after flowering to control height and make a bushier habit
Vernalization:	If selling in flower for spring sales, 10-12 wks below 40°F

Grower Tips:

- Plugs should be planted evenly with container soil line
- Flowering is day neutral

Sources: Greenhouse Product News, Perennial Solutions by Paul Pilon, Walter's Gardens

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Notes and Helpful Terms *Technical Information for Growers*

Notes on Pest and Disease: Pests and diseases listed are problems that commonly occur with this crop but not a guarantee that this issue will arise. By knowing it's common complaints, growers can develop strategies for monitoring and treating the crop.

Recommended ranges for EC, pH, and light intensity:

Light intensity is measured by foot candles, lumens, or lux. The light intensity varies by latitude, season, and weather from day to day. A general range we try to stay within for optimum growing conditions for our full-sun crops are 2,000-3,000 foot-candles (600 umol·m-2·s-1).

We generally keep our pH range 5.8-6.2 on most crops. A pH of 6.5+ or above can lead to an iron deficiency in some crops, especially warm season grasses.

We measure the soluble salts in the soil using the EC pour-through method. Generally speaking, having a reading that ranges between 1.5-2.0 is optimum for most crops.

We are frequently asked about how to design and implement a production program. As each facility and production program is different, we urge growers to review the resources we have posted here or to consult with a grower consultant. We are happy to share information about our experiences regarding fertility programs, monitoring EC, light, watering regimes, soil media, and greenhouse production.

Here are some resources we find helpful:

Beytes, Chris. (2011) *Ball Redbook Volume 1 Greenhouses and Equipment* (18th ed.) Batavia, IL: Ball Publishing.

Nau,Jim. (2011) *Ball Redbook Volume 2 Crop Production* (18th ed.). Batavia, IL: Ball Publishing.

Nau, Jim. (1996) *Ball Perennial Manual Propagation and Production*. Batavia, IL: Ball Publishing.

Pilon, Paul. (2006) *Perennial Solutions A Growers Guide to Perennial Production*. Batavia, IL: Ball Publishing.

We also encourage growers to join and participate in the International Plant Propagators Society, of which the North Creek grow team are members. There is an IPPS group for each region of the United States – production information, trials, experiments, and experience are freely shared within IPPS and it is a valuable resource for growers, propagators, and other plant experts.

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