

Culture Sheet: *Technical Information for Growers*

Name: *Andropogon, Bouteloua, Eragrostis, Juncus, Muhlenbergia, Panicum, Schizachyrium, Sorghastrum, Sporobolus*

Common name: Warm-season grasses

Scheduling Information

Available sizes: 50, LP50

Sales Window: Spring-Fall

Plug size	50	LP50
Finish size	Trade 1 gal	Trade 1 gal
Weeks to finish	8-10 wks	7-9 wks
When to pot	Late spring-mid summer	Summer, late summer or spring

Growing on to Finish

Media:	Professional potting media with adequate drainage and water holding capacity
pH:	5.8-6.2 – a pH over 6.5 can result in iron deficiency
EC:	Low
Irrigation:	Prefer average moisture conditions. Allow media to dry slightly between watering.
Fertilizer:	Moderate to heavy feeders. 100-200ppm nitrogen every irrigation or weekly feeds of 300-400ppm nitrogen. Combining time-release and water-soluble fertilizers together can be an effective nutrient management program
Light:	High light levels, 5,000 f.c. (54klux)
Temperature:	Rooting out: 65–80°F Growing: 65–80°F Holding: 40–50°F
Pest & Disease:	Rare – spider mite, thrips. Rust, Crown and root rots.
Vernalization:	Overwinter with no heat and moderate moisture. Requires obligate cold period for flowering. Minimum 12wks below 40°F to induce flowering

Grower Tips:

- Can manipulate growing mix to match growing season need. More water-holding capacity if growing through summer months or more drainage if growing through fall-winter
- Plants should be planted under warm temperatures and long days for good root establishment.
- Plant plugs equal to soil line and with good root/soil contact to prevent drying out or crown rot
- Avoid fertilizers applied directly to crown of plant to prevent fertilizer burn
- Trim plants back to 2-3 in above the top of the container in fall to overwinter.

Disclaimer: Cultural information is provided as a guide only. North Creek Nurseries does not guarantee the exact results, as growth and finish times may vary depending upon your location, climate, cultural practices and other influences. Always check manufacturers' labels for approved rates and usage instructions when applying fertilizer or other chemicals.

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



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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 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$).

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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