

Culture Sheet: *Technical Information for Growers*

Name: *Carex* spp.

Common name: Sedge

Scheduling Information

Available sizes: LP32

Sales Window: all year

Plug size	LP32	LP32
Finish size	Trade gal	1 qt
Weeks to finish	7-9	7-9
When to pot	late summer-fall	Spring-summer

Growing on to Finish

Media:	Professional potting media with proper water drainage
pH:	6.0-6.5
EC:	1.5-2.0 pour through method
Irrigation:	Average to above average moisture needs. Proper water management in first couple weeks is key, avoid excessive water stress. Excessive water can lead to crown rot and fungal issues
Fertilizer:	Light to moderate feeder, 75-125ppm nitrogen with each irrigation. Caution with granular feed applications – can burn crown
Light:	Provide light to moderate shade during warm seasons. Southern growers will need to provide higher levels of protection during summer heat and humidity.
Temperature:	Rooting out: 55-65°F Growing: 60-70°F Holding: 55-60°F
Pest & Disease:	Pest – aphid, mealybug, slug. Disease – crown and root rots, rust.
Pinching:	Does not require. Can be trimmed lightly if desired, do not cut too hard, esp. near crown
Vernalization:	Does not require. Allow plugs 6-8 wks to root in before winter dormancy. To prevent losses, do not let containers dry out while in dormancy.

Grower Tips:

- *Carex* is a cool-season grass and goes dormant in the heat of the summer months. Potting in late summer/fall allows for plants to bulk up before spring sales. Plants grow slower in summer months.
- Important roots to have contact with potting medium – avoid planting plugs too high or too low, always match the original soil line of the plug to the growing mix of the final container
- *Carex* is sensitive to salt buildup. Leach media every few weeks to avoid buildup and root burn
- Do not trim prior to winter dormancy and cut back as needed at the end of overwintering period.

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



388 North Creek Road
Landenberg, PA 19350
Toll Free: (877) ECO-PLUG
info@northcreeknurseries.com

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.



388 North Creek Road
Landenberg, PA 19350
Toll Free: (877) ECO-PLUG
info@northcreeknurseries.com