Melissa officinalis Mandarina

Life cycle	Perennial/herbs
Family/origin	Lamiaceae/North Africa, Asia and Europe
Popular uses	Containers and pots, perfectly suited for garden fragrance, rockery, flavoring and in teas or potpourri
Mature plant height	35-45 cm (14-18”)
Mature plant width	35-45 cm (14-18”)
Pot size	10-15 cm (4-6”)
Plants per pot	1
Sun exposure	Sun/partial shade
Water requirements	Reduced, avoid wet conditions
Flowering season	Summer
Media	A well-drained, porous media is best to prevent over watering pH 5.5-6.2 EC 0.5-1.8 (50-150 ppm)
Growing temperature	Temperature for active growth 10-16ºC (50-60ºF) at night days up to 16°C (60°F) Higher average day temperature will speed up the process
Light	N/A
Fertilizer needs	Balanced N:P:K fertiliser as needed recommended EC 1.4-1.8 (100-150 ppm)
Crop time	13-18 weeks
Hardiness zone	Z 4-9

Mandarina

Growth regulators

Not recommended for use on herbs

Common Diseases

Rust. Leafspots and Fusarium;
avoid wet foliage at night for Botrytis

Common Pests

Aphids and Thrips

Pinching

No need althought frequent cutting will enhance re-growth

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Plug Production

Seed forms	Raw
Seed count	1200 -1400 sds/gr (33,600-39,200 sds/oz) *Varies by lot!*
Recommended plug size	288-128
Seeds cell	3-4
Vermiculite cover	Normal
Stage 1 **Germination**	Media pH 5.5 to 6.3 EC 0,5-1.0 (50-75 ppm) Moisture: keep medium saturated Temperature: 18-20°C (65-68°F) growing medium temperature
Stage 2 **Stem and cotyledon**	Reduce moisture levels to obtain optimum root penetration and to prevent fungal diseases. Prevent wet foliage after nightfall Temperature: 18-20°C (65-68°F) Fertilizers: EC 0.7-1.2 (100-150 ppm)
Stage 3 **Growth and development**	Moisture: reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry slightly between watering but do not allow plants to wilt Temperature: 16-18°C (65-68°F) Fertilizers: as stage 2 To prevent stretching alternate with potassium nitrate at EC 1.4-1.8 (100-150 ppm)
Stage 4 **Ready for transplanting**	Moisture: reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry slightly between watering but do not allow plants to wilt Temperature: 13-15°C (54-59°F) Fertilizers: see stage 3
Plug crop time	6-7 weeks
Approximate finish time	18-22 weeks
Special tips	As soon as the plants are rooted, the watering can be restricted The crop needs to have good air circulation in well ventilated conditions

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