

Molucella

- *A vibrant green study stem with bell shaped flowers.*
- *A perfect height for a cut flower arrangement.*
- *Excellent flower vase life, 10 to 14 days if used fresh and months if used dried.*
- *Great alternative for a filler. Adds green color and a spiky vertical effect to flower arrangements.*

Molucella is an annual plant, propagated by seeds, native to the Mediterranean region, primarily Syria, where the traveling scientists discovered it at the end of the 16th century. Very fast it found its way, not only to the Botanical collections but to the European gardens as well.

Molucella is also called “Bells of Ireland” because of the vibrant Chartreuse-green color of its spikes.

Molucella is a lightly scented plant that produces a gorgeous, green bract, which surround rather inconspicuous flowers.



The unique shape, the brilliant and vibrant green color of the Molucella flower makes it a favorite on Saint Patrick’s Day, celebrated all over the world.

Molucella is a very versatile commercial flower. The spiky stems make an interesting and long-lasting fresh cutflower arrangement, can be used as an alternative for fillers or it may be used dried (just hang the plants up side down in a dry and dark place until dried, paint them and you have a perfect ornament for Christmas time).

- *Has a nice soft aroma*
- *Good shipper*
- *Geotropism, bending up wards away from the earth, gives Molucella a superb decorative advantage*



Cultural Information

Molucella Laevis

Crop time: 14 weeks.

Planting Density: 80 plants/sq-m.net.

Pre-planting:

-Soil: Well drained, loose soil with no clusters. At least 25 cm (10 in) deep.

-pH: 6.0 to 6.5.

-Netting: 2 levels.

Leaf Removal

9 weeks after planting, remove the leaves of the down half of the stem.

Lateral Branch Removal

10 weeks after planting remove lateral branches.

Irrigation

Use overhead irrigation during first week after planting. Then switch to drip irrigation and supplement water with a hose.

When the soil is not visible from the top

(because of plant growth) stop additional watering with hose and use only drip irrigation.

Fertilization

Average fertilization. Excess of nitrogen causes overgrowth of the plants.

Harvest

Harvest when the stem has the appropriate length. Time of harvest depends on the length of the spike and it is not depend on the flower opening.

Post harvest

Hydrate with bactericide at least for 3 hours.

Pests & Diseases

-*Leaf miner*

-*Pythium sp*

-*Cercospora sp*