

Limonium sinuatum (Statice)

Cultivation description

General

Statice originate from the Mediterranean. It is the most widely grown annual Statice. Up to some years ago, they had mainly been grown from seed, but for some time basic material through tissue culture has been available. The distinctive features of tissue culture plants of the Sun Birds®-series are:

- great uniformity;
- tall stems;
- wide range of colours;
- long spikes;
- flowers on top of the stem;
- high production of flowers per plant (up to 5 times production of seed plants).

Under Western European circumstances, the Statice Sun Birds serie does also have the advantage to be faster and earlier in the season in production.

The advantages has already motivated a great number of Western European (including Spanish), Israelian and Kenyan & American growers to make efficient use of their greenhouse space and grow tissue culture propagates Statice.

Varieties

The Statice propagated by tissue-culture is available in the following colours:

Pink, Yellow, Blue, Dark Blue, Violet, White, Purple

Due to large investments made in research more varieties are expected to be introduced soon within the coming years.

Cultivation possibilities

Statice Sun Birds®-series can be grown both for greenhouse production as well as for outdoor cultivation, even the majority of plants is grown indoor. If your climate is not too humid and you prefer to grow outside, we recommend to only grow the blue's and violet colours, as these varieties have more resistance for fungal diseases.

Planting period

The planting period depends on which area to plants. In Western Europe, it is common to plant from December through to April, whereby specially the December planting generates flowering for early spring, when flower prices usually are higher. In the Mediterranean area, it is recommended to plant in fall thus benefitting a good winter yield. In countries around the equator, year-round planting is possible.

Planting method/ planting density

It is recommended planting in two rows of plants per bed of 1 metre wide with a distance of 30 - 40 cm in between the plants in the row. This means you require 3,1 - 4 plants per gross square metre.

To prevent weeds, a number of growers has successfully planted Statice Bird in anti-rooting cloth or double layered plastic (downside black / upper side white), though you have to make sure that the plant hole is large enough and your water system has been installed well.

Supporting material

For both the cultivation in glasshouses as well as for outdoor cultivation supporting material must be used. One layer of the so called "Alstroemeria wire-netting" with squares of 17.5 x 20 cm is sufficient. Tip: bring after planting your wire-netting to 30 cm. When the flower stems are stretching, they will spread more regular.

Production

The production period in Western Europe is from mid-April through to late October. In other areas a longer production period is possible.

Depending on growing conditions the total production per plant ranges, though in the Netherlands a production between 35 - 50 stems per one plant is possible.

Temperature

In the beginning of the growth 2-4 weeks a night temperature of at least 12 °C and a day temperature 15-16 °C is suggested. In case of much sunlight the temperature can increase without any problem but ventilate with a temperature of 22-23 °C.

In darker circumstances, with the heating system as the source of heat, a night temperature of 11 °C and a day temperature of 14 °C can be taken as a starting point. Here also applies that in case of much light the temperatures may rise.

Ventilation

Statice requires a lot of air. A good climate is important. Always let some fresh air into the greenhouse during the night. After a colder night, give some extra heat in the morning during the flowering period to prevent against Botrytis.

Type of soil

Statice can be grown on various types of soil, as long as the permeability is good. Too moist circumstances may cause fungal problems.

Watering & fertilising

The water dosage depends on the type of soil (always keep the ground sufficiently humid).

Overwatering may cause the stems to grow too much and to become weak.

In respect of fertilising we recommend you to analyse the soil before planting. In general Statice requires low feeding levels. Too high fertilization can cause smaller spike and weaker flower stem.

When you want to start fertilise before planting you can give 3-5 kg N+P+K 12+10+19 per 100 m². During the growing season, additional fertiliser needs to be given. In case your length is a problem (for instance on clayish soil), extra Nitrogen is

required. On sandy soils you have to put more emphasis on potassium to strengthen the stems.



In the vegetative stage you may water above, but in generative stage it's important that you water underneath. You can use f.i. by drippers or plastic tubs. Do not use a raining-system underneath, because that is too irregular. When you water in the morning you avoid that the plants are wet during the night period.

Feeding Scheme:

mmol/l

EC 0,8 – 1,2

pH 6,2 – 6,5

NH ₄ ⁺	K ⁺	Na ⁺	Ca ₂ ⁺	Mg ₂ ⁺	NO ₃ ⁻	Cl ⁻	SO ₄ ⁻	HCO ₃ ⁻	H ₂ PO ₄ ⁻
0,1	1,5	2,0	1,5	1,0	3,5	1,4	1,5	0,5	0,15

Harvesting

Statice Sun Birds®-Series requires to be harvested only once or twice per week depending on the time of the year. The moment of harvesting is as 80% of the spike is full open. Do not cut too early, otherwise the quality is too weak.

Harvested flowers can be put on water with chloride pill, but be cautious for a too high concentration.

Statice has to be sorted on length and weight. You may store the flower in cool conditions 5-8 °C, but note that the spike is dry (to avoid botrytis).



Diseases and pests

Botrytis: Botrytis can cause problems in all stages of the growth and is the main possible pest in Statice, especially during the blooming period. First of all you should create a good climate.

Caterpillar

Greenfly

Mildew

Red spider mite

Spider mite

Thrips

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