

Mertensia maritima Oyster Leaf



Life cycle	Perennial
Family/origin	Boraginaceae
Popular uses	Perennial garden, containers, pots and hanging basket Oyster flavored leafy plant for salads and fish dishes.
Mature plant height	20-25 cm/8-10"
Mature plant width	30-40 cm/12-16"
Sales pot size	10-15 cm/4-6" pots, hanging baskets
Plants per pot	1, 3-5 plants per hanging basket
Sun exposure	Full sun
Water requirements	Reduced
Flowering season	Spring/summer
Daylength sensitivity	long day
Approx. total crop time	15-21 weeks - needs vernalization for flowering
Hardiness zone (USDA)	2-8
Growth regulators	Not recommended for use on edibles
Common diseases	Leafspots and Fusarium, avoid wet leaves at night for Botrytis
Common pests	Slugs and snails



Mertensia maritima Oyster Leaf is a close relative to Virginia Bluebells, and is an amazing plant for hanging baskets and mixed containers. An edible plant for gourmets. It has blue-green leaves, slightly crunchy with an incredible taste of oysters.

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Plug Production



Seed forms	Raw and coated
Seed count (varies by lot)	1100 seeds/gram (30.800 seeds/oz)
Seeds cell	3-4
Vermiculite cover	Yes
Stage 1 Germination	Media pH 5.5 to 6.3 Moisture: keep medium saturated Temperature: 20-22°C/68-72°F growing medium temperature Fertilizer: 0.5-1. EC
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 Fertilizer: EC. 1-1.25
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: 13-15°C/54-59°F Fertilizers: as stage 2. To prevent stretching alternate with potassium nitrate at 50-75 ppm EC. 1.5-2
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
Recommended fertilizer type	Balanced complete fertilizer, but avoid ammoniacal forms of nitrogen
Plug crop time	5-6 weeks
Approximate finish time	10-15 weeks
Special tips	Growing on: Media: a well-drained, porous media is best to prevent over watering pH 5.5-6.0 EC. 1,5-2 Moisture: Plants should be grown dry, watering evenly when necessary. The crop needs to have good air circulation in well ventilated conditions