

PHRAG CULTURE
by THE PHRAG HAG (NANCY VOLPE)

GENERAL:

The following set of conditions represent the successful culture used for growing in our greenhouse. If any changes are required to meet other conditions it will be necessary to make adjustments accordingly.*

LIGHT:

- 2,000 - 3,000 ft. candles average
- besseae grown at lower light approx. 1,000 ft. candles, some under lights.
- Duration of direct sunlight is from approx. 2 hours after sunrise to mid afternoon (lean-to greenhouse facing East in a heavily wooded area). Shade cloth used in summer to limit upper temp but still maintain indicated light level.

TEMP.

- Min. 58 degrees night time temp. with min. 10 degrees daytime rise.
- Summer max. limited to 85/90 degrees in daytime.

WATER/ FERTILIZER:

- Water source is well water @5.6 pH. and < 100 ppm total dissolved salts.
- Regular fertilizer is Cal Mag 15-5-15, strength @1 tbsp. per gallon
- Fertilize for 3 out of 4 waterings
- Switch to blossom booster 10-30-20 for 6 weeks in early Spring and early Fall
- Supplement feeding with a one time top dressing mix of equal parts dry blood and bone meal in April and October. Average 1 tsp. per 5" pot; drench thoroughly afterwards.
- Exception - besseae:
 - Water and fertilize as indicated above except delete the supplemental feeding.
 - Raise pH. of water or fertilizer mixture up to a pH. of 7.0 by the addition of Dyna-Gro pH. Up.

POTS/TRAYS - WATERING FREQUENCY:

- Plastic pots with side and bottom drain holes are used.
- Pots are arranged by pot size to permit selecting which size pots require watering, as determined by pot weight.
- Frequency of watering depends on season, weather conditions, and pot size.
- Typical watering cycles are once a week in winter and twice a week in summer.
- Only water in a.m. on sunny days and minimize watering foliage that permits water to lay in axles.
- Plastic saucer trays with punched holes approx. 1/2 inch from bottom are used under each pot to provide an additional water reservoir. Fill saucers with plain water whenever they are dry.

POTTING MIX:

- Equal parts of medium and small bark, medium and small charcoal, medium and small sponge rock (perlite)
- Pre soak mix with water several hours prior to potting. Add 1 tsp. of Physan (RD-20) per bucket of soaking mix.
- Add layer of styrofoam peanuts to bottom of pot before potting.
- After potting water thoroughly.
- Repot annually after blooming.

HUMIDITY/AIR

- 60-70% Relative Humidity
- Sufficient air movement 24 hours a day to see slight foliage movement; oscillating fans and air tubes used.

FUNGICIDE/INSECTICIDE:

- Maintenance use of both fungicide and insecticide.

•**Note: BE CONSISTENT!!!**