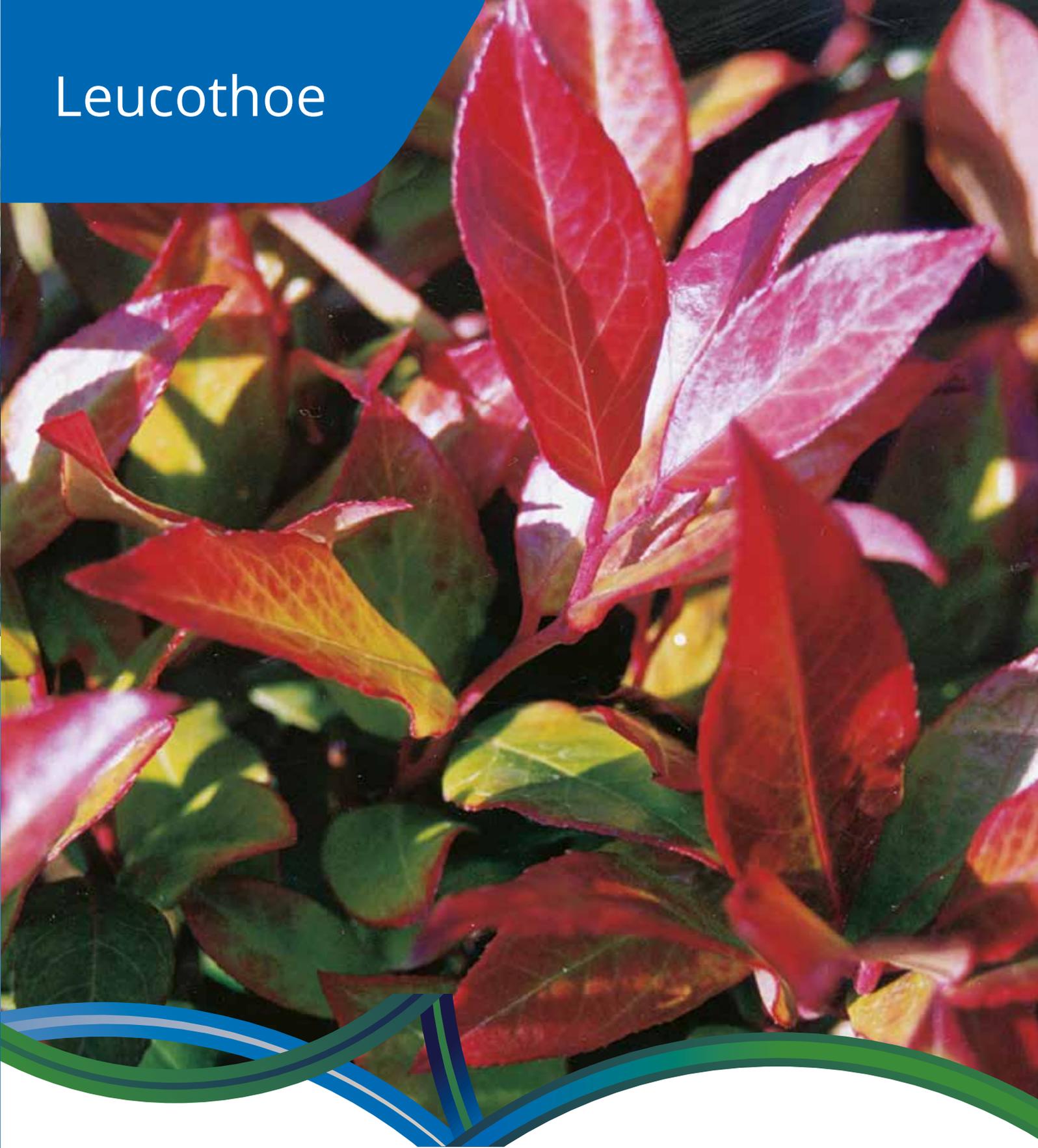


Leucothoe



Crop Cultivation Sheet

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ICL Specialty
Fertilizers



Leucothoe

General information for cultivation:

Leucothoe is an aesthetically pleasing crop for retail actions, garden centers, DIY stores, etc. The main sales period is autumn, the crop's visually attractive leaf colors develop in the lower temperatures. But spring sales are also gaining popularity. Total cultivation time from cuttings to sellable plants is 1.5 – 2 years.

STAGE 1: Cuttings and young plants	STAGE 2: Vegetation	STAGE 3: Finishing (C2 ltr pots)
<p>Cuttings usually made in June, but January – March are also possible (for sale in spring next year). Top and second layer cuttings must be separated during culture for uniformity.</p>	<p>P10.5 are used for application in mix boxes for retail actions in the autumn. C2 (and bigger) are used for garden centers. Cut off early flowers after potting.</p>	<p>Select strong plants for growth in bigger pots. Prune intensively in young plants to get well-branched plants in the finishing stage.</p>

Cultivation cards:

Growing medium and water

- Leucothoe, like other Ericaceae, requires low pH for best development (soil pH: 4.2 – 4.5).
- Ensure constant moisture in the growing medium (no excesses).
- A substrate with good re-wetting and de-watering properties is important for strong root development since Ericaceae have sensitive roots.
- Use high quality water. Ensure low amounts of bicarbonates (HCO₃⁻), rainwater is preferred.

Starting phase

- After potting, the goal is to support root development. Control the EC-levels in the pots (maximum 0.5 mS during this stage).
- For winter pottings we recommend to use Osmocote Exact only. Don't apply water soluble compound starter fertilizers.
- Don't use auxin powders during the cutting phase. They can damage the callus tip.

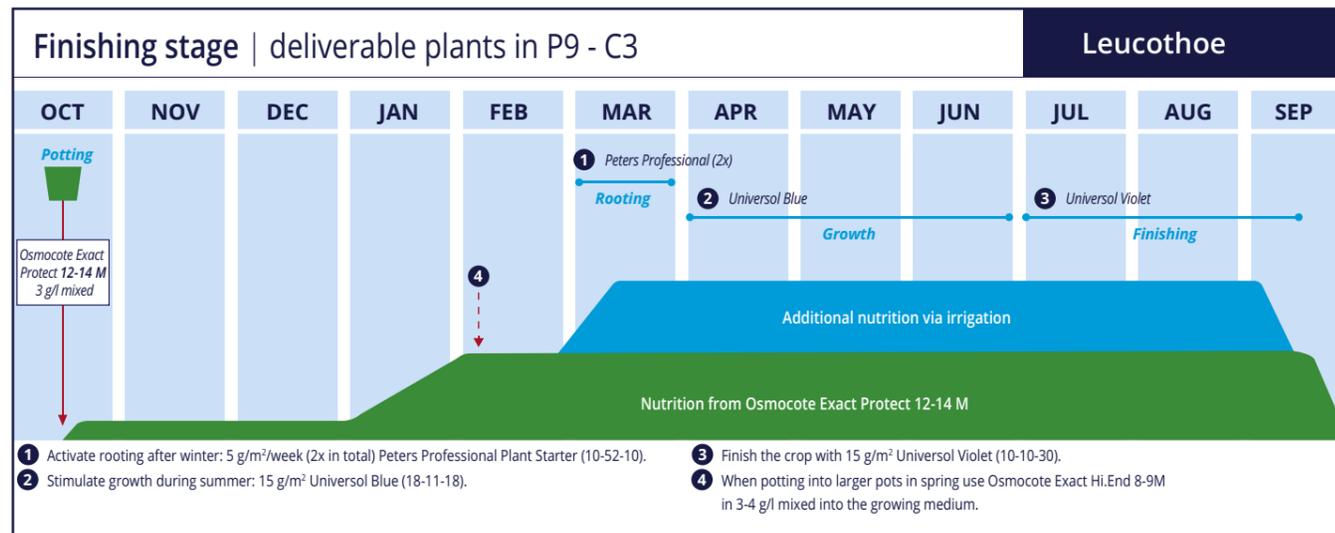
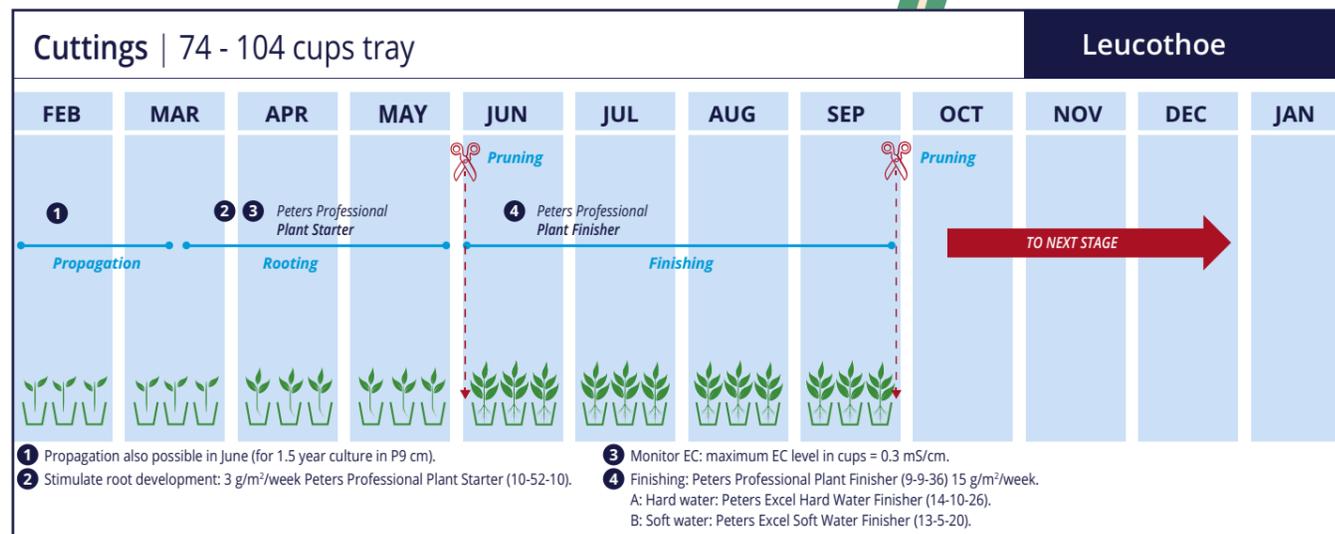
Growing phase

- The aim is compact growth. Plant design must be made during the cutting / young plant stage.
- Prune in time and focus on root development. During growth we recommend a nutrition schedule with an N:K ratio of 1:1.
- Important: around pruning moments it is a must to keep the EC level low (maximum 0.3 mS), to reduce the risk of plant stress.
- Avoid stress caused by excesses in the temperature and humidity.

Finishing phase

- Compactness of plants is important for your customers, mainly in retail.
- High quality Leucothoe is mainly grown in greenhouses. For good quality plants it is important to:
 - Use natural irradiation during the winter, but keep plants shaded during the summer.
 - Always ensure air movement and an active greenhouse climate to get strong plants and good, attractive color in autumn.

Recommendations for cultivation



For a tailored advice for your situation, please contact your ICL Specialty Fertilizers advisor. As circumstances can differ and as application of products is beyond our control, ICL Specialty Fertilizers cannot be held responsible for any negative results. Before a new rate, product or application method is used, a small-scale trail is recommended.

Cultivation notes from our specialists



Tips & Tricks

Leucothoe

- Leucothoe is a slow-growing crop. Roots develop very slowly and the challenge is always that the crop's leaves and twigs develop quicker than its roots. Ensure balanced humidity in greenhouses.
- Leucothoe gives best color in autumn when grown outside. The preferred cultivation method is to start in a greenhouse after potting and to place the plants outside when the risk for night frosts has passed. By then the roots will have developed too.
- Humidity and evaporation can always pose a risk. Mainly during the months of April and May. Try to avoid peaks in the greenhouse humidity: irrigate in the morning and control the relative humidity during spring.
- Make sure irradiation is balanced inside the greenhouse during culture:
 - October– March: clean the cover of your greenhouse to optimally benefit from sunlight during wintertime.
 - April – September: cover the greenhouse with Redusol. This keeps out the heat and diffuses the irradiation to avoid the risk of leaf burn.



Crop Protection

Leucothoe

Leucothoe is very sensitive to several pathogens and diseases:

Sciara

Can occur during the cutting period. The quicker roots are developed, the less problems can arise. Make sure you propagate at the right time (take increasing daylength into account!).

Aphids

Crop protection is necessary whenever young shoots are developing (especially in the Curly Red variety can be difficult to see).

Root rot and stem-base rot (Colletotrichum, Phytophthora):

Preventive actions are needed during the entire culture (chemicals, but also avoid wet circumstances).

Leaf spots (Phoma, Colletotrichum):

Good nutrition and indoor cultivation can protect the crop.



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