Prunus laurocerasus

Crop Cultivation Sheet

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ICL Specialty Fertilizers

Prunus laurocerasus

General information for cultivation:

Prunus laurocerasus are widely cultivated evergreens in many cultivars, often used for hedges. Important quality parameters for Prunus are a combination of good branching and branch length, as well as a deep green leaf color. More and more growers are looking for the right approach in balanced nutrition as they face increasing disease pressure in Prunus and new regulations limiting the use of chemical crop protection. Total cultivation time from cuttings to sellable plants is 2-3 years.

STAGE 1: Cuttings and young plants

Cuttings are ideally made in June (after first growth), but are also possible in September-October (2nd growth). Help save the plant's energy by halving the leaves of cuttings in small cups.

STAGE 2: Vegetation

Make sure you establish good branching during the young plant the design has to be made in cuttings and in small plants during spring.

STAGE 3: Finishing

Select strong plants for growth in bigger pots. Prune intensively in young plants to get well-branched plants in the finishing stage.

Cultivation cards:

Growing medium and water

- Prunus laurocerasus cultivars require a soil pH around 5.0.
- Ensure constant moisture in the growing medium (no excesses) and water that is not too cold (warm up well water).
- Use substrates with good re-wetting and de-watering properties for strong root development.
- Use 'clear' irrigation water: Prunus laurocerasus are very sensitive to sodium (Na+Cl)!
- The preferred water source is rainwater or 'clear' well water.

Starting phase

- Prunus laurocerasus can be potted during spring. We recommend Osmocote Exact Hi.End in high rates (full rates or base rates, see next page).
- Make sure EC levels are lower (0.5 mS) during root development.
- Control salt levels in the water if you use it for anti-frost protection in spring! Prunus is very salt-sensitive.

Growing phase

- Once the plants are rooted successfully, quickly increase the amount of fertilizer applied in the culture.
- Plants are mainly grown outdoors, so ensure good base nutrition with Osmocote Exact mixed into the growing medium.
- Try to prevent diseases rather than applying curative actions.
- The main growth phase is in late spring and during September – October (November in southern countries). The EC level in the pot around these growing periods should continuously be around 1.5 mS/cm.
- We recommended to lower the EC level in the pots around pruning times.

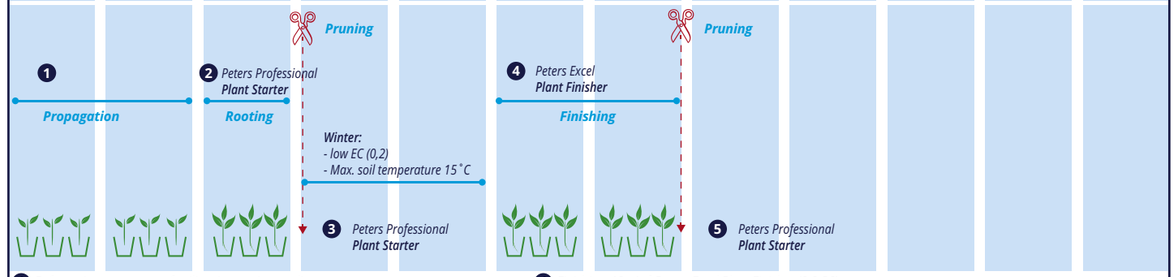
Finishing phase

- Added values in plant quality are length, branching, strength and green color, so focus nutrition in the finishing phase on a high K schedule (N:K ratio 1:3).
- Make sure you add a water soluble fertilizer that is high in magnesium. Prunus also needs a large amount of trace elements.
- Be aware of a 'late' attack of caterpillars during the period of delivery.

Recommendations for Cultivation

Cuttings | 74 cups tray

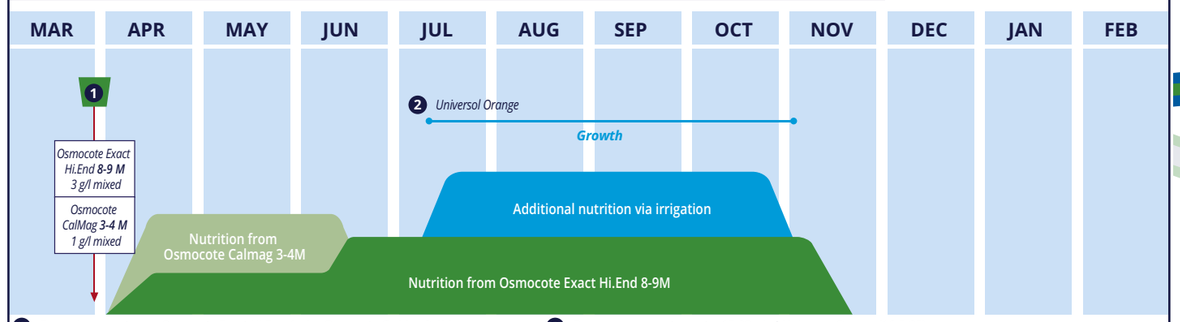
Prunus laurocerasus
1-1,5 year culture



1. Before winter: no starter fertilizer in growing medium.
2. When rooting starts: 5 g/m² Peters Professional Plant Starter (10-52-10).
3. One week after first pruning: 3-5 g/m² (0,5 EC) Peters Professional Plant Starter (10-52-10).
4. Finishing: 10 g/m² Peters Excel Plant Finisher (9-9-36) or
   A: Hard water: Peters Excel Hard Water Finisher (14-10-26).
   B: Soft water: Peters Excel CalMag Finisher (13-5-20).
5. One week after second pruning apply 5 g/m² Peters Professional Plant Starter (10-52-10) to promote root growth.

Pottings | 74 cups tray - 2 l pots

Prunus laurocerasus
1-1,5 year culture



1. For delivery next year: Osmocote Exact Hi.End 4 g/l + Osmocote CalMag 3-4M 1g/l mixed into the growing medium to stimulate optimum branching, and to ensure calcium, magnesium and nitrogen supply.
2. Balanced, compact growth: 15-20 g/m² Universol Orange (16-5-25).

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

Prunus laurocerasus

- The quality of plants is mainly influenced by the starting material you use. For the right plant design later on in the growth cycle, we recommend to use well-branched cuttings or young plants. It is important that the foot of the cuttings shows wood (not green) for good callus formation.
- For quicker cultures you can also pot bare-rooted Prunus, that has been field grown in a big pot during spring time. Make sure they are of uniform quality.
- Start with high quality young plants: good roots, uniformity in design and good branching.
- Prunus laurocerasus young plants are not fully resistant to frost. We recommend to apply high K water soluble fertilizer schedules during September – October (and November in southern countries).
- After starting with high quality young plants, we recommend to:
  - Make sure the growing medium in the pots is constantly moist.
  - Only use water without sodium.
  - Cuttings: balance the (greenhouse) climate as much as possible. Avoid peaks in humidity and temperature (see next item).
  - Around cultivation actions (pruning, cutting, etc.): support root activation with 10g/m^2 Peters Professional Plant Starter.
  - Prunus laurocerasus has high magnesium demands. Apply Agroleaf Power Mg during the second half of the season (Aug – Sept) mixed into tank mixes with fungicides.
  - Apply foliar feed in the mornings or late afternoon (high humidity and low irradiance).
- Prunus laurocerasus is sensitive to specific insects and diseases. Independent trials show that when nutrition is continuously at a sufficient level, plant resistance is increased.
- Bear in mind that Prunus is sensitive to deep frosts (and cold nights in spring!).

Crop Protection

Prunus laurocerasus

Sciara
Can occur during the cutting period, especially because this crop takes a few months to root. The quicker roots are developed, the less problems.

Laurell Weevil (Othiorhynchus salicicola)
As opposed to wine weevil, these insects are present during the day. Curative actions are required.

Xanthomonas spp, Pseudomonas spp
Work hygienically to prevent these bacterial leaf spot diseases. Use healthy young plants and ensure sufficient nutrition.

Mildew molds
Young leaves are most sensitive. Mildew mostly occurs in high temperatures and high humidity. Balanced nutrition supports healthy plants.

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