

# Tech Shares

## Fertilizer Tips

### Tech Sheet for Pansies

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#### Overall comments on crop:

- Pansies are not very demanding if root-zone pH's are maintained below 5.8.
- Adequate Magnesium and Iron will ensure dark green foliage.
- Pansies require higher levels of Boron to prevent growing point disorders.
- Avoid high Phosphorous formulations to avoid stretch.

#### 100% Water soluble fertilizer (WSF) program:

- Ideally fertilizer selection should be based on a current water analysis (contact your ICL representative for more details).
- A good general program would be Peters Excel® 15-2-20 Pansy, Salvia, Vinca Special @ 100 to 125 ppm N on a constant basis.
- Commence feeding at planting or as soon as plugs are rooted in.
- WSF applications should be reduced several weeks before shipping – switch to Peters Professional® 15-0-15 @ 75 ppm N.

#### 100% Controlled release fertilizer (CRF) program:

- Osmocote® Bloom (2-3 mo. @ 70°F in N. zones/ 5-6 mo. @ 70°F in S. zones) incorporated at 3 to 5.5 lbs. per cu. yard.
- Media should be used within 2 to 3 weeks after mixing in CRF.
- Select a longer term product to extend feeding in the garden center and to help plants establish in the landscape.



**Combination fertilizer program:**

- Osmocote® Bloom (2-3 mo. @ 70°F in N. zones/ 5-6 mo. @ 70°F in S. zones) incorporated at 2 to 4 lbs. per cu. yard.
- A good WSF product would be Peters Excel® 15-2-20 Pansy, Salvia, Vinca Special @ 50 to 75 ppm N on a constant basis.

**Supplements:**

- Add Magnesium in form of Peters Excel® Magnitrate 10-0-0 @ 4 oz. per 100 gallons on a constant basis if Mg is lacking in program.
- Apply a medium rate of H2Pro® liquid before shipping to help prevent wilting in the post-harvest phase.

**Problem solving:**

- Use higher nitrate N formulations to avoid ammonium toxicity (V shaped foliar chlorosis and downward cupping leaves).
- Weekly drenches of Boron @ 0.25 ppm (from Borax) can prevent deficiency symptoms.

