

CULTURE ADVICE

Diascia

Description:	The varieties of the twinspace series 'Elfjes' are compact and upright growing. Their inhibitor demand is weak, and they are early flowering. Ideal in combination with other bed and balcony plants of similar requirements. Consumer tip: Best suited for places exposed to full sunlight. In order to enhance remounting, cut back withered panicles now and then.
Potting:	10 - 12 cm pots; 45 - 35 plants/m ² , weeks 4 - 10
Substrate:	Well-drained, loose substrates (addition of perlite or the like is of advantage). pH 5 - 6
Fertilization:	Moderately consumptive, apply 0,1 - 0,2 % complete fertilizer once a week. Have an eye on iron deficiency symptoms during cultivation. Should they occur, they can easily be remedied with conventional iron chelate fertilizers.
Temperature:	Start at 16 - 18 °C, finish cultivation at 12 - 15 °C. Cold cultivation is possible but would extend the cultivation time. Cold-caused chlorosis is possible but will grow out when the temperature rises (bear fertilization in mind!).
Light:	Full light, no shadow.
Flowering:	Starts in mid-April (photoperiodic reaction) depending on light conditions (if no extra light is used).
Growth regulators:	Not absolutely necessary; good results with Topflor 0.05 %; Caramba 0.05 %, also alternately possible (caution: use of Tilt as a fungicide may lead to very strong compression effects).
Pinching:	Pinching is not absolutely necessary. However, if branching is not satisfactory, some trimming or shaping is recommended to get a better plant build-up. 1 to 2 weeks after potting or immediately in case of a suitable young plant size.
Diseases / pest:	Botrytis, plant lice, thrips; take hygienic measures!

Water balance is of importance; the plants must not stand too wet, danger of botrytis, damage to roots and irregular plant build-up are the consequences.

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