

Mertensia maritima Silver Ocean

Life cycle	Perennial / Herbs
Family / Origin	Boraginaceae / Canada, Greenland and Scotland
Popular uses	Perennial garden, containers, pots and hanging basket Oyster flavored leafy plant for salads and fish dishes
Mature plant height	20-25 cm (8-10")
Mature plant width	30-40 cm (12-16")
Pot size	10-15 cm (4-6") pots; hanging baskets
Plants per pot	1 per pot, 3-5 plants per hanging basket
Sun exposure	Sun / Partial shade
Water requirements	Moderately moist
Flowering season	Summer
Media	Use of a well-drained, porous media is best to prevent over watering pH 5.8 – 6.2 EC 0.5-1.4 (75-210 ppm N)
Growing temperature	For active growth 10-16°C (50-61°F) at night Days up to 16°C (61°F) A higher average day temperature will speed up the process
Light	Long day flowering
Fertilizer needs	Balanced N:P:K fertilizer as needed Recommended EC: 1.4-1.8 (210-270 ppm N)
Crop time	15-21 weeks Needs vernalization for flowering
Hardiness zone	Z 2-8



Description

Edible plant for gourmets with silver-blue, greenish crispy leaves with the savory taste of fresh oysters (Oysterleaf / Oysterplant).
Very hardy and salt tolerant perennial

Growth regulators

Not recommended for use on edibles

Common diseases

Leafspots and Fusarium
Avoid wet foliage at night due to Botrytis

Common pests

Slugs and Snails

Pinching

No need, although frequent cutting will promote regrowth

Plug production

Seed forms	Profi-seed
Seed count	400 seeds/gram (11.500 seeds/oz); varies by lot!
Recommended plug size	288-128
Seeds cell	3-4
Vermiculite cover	Normal
Stage 1 Germination	Media: pH 5.5 to 6.3 Moisture: keep medium saturated Growing medium temperature: 20-22°C (68-72°F) Fertilizer: EC 0.5-1.0 (75-150 ppm N)
Stage 2 Stem and cotyledon	Reduce moisture levels to achieve optimal root penetration and prevent fungal diseases Avoid wet foliage after nightfall Temperature: 18-20°C (64-68°F) Fertilizers: EC 0.5-1.0 (75-150 ppm N)
Stage 3 Growth and development	Moisture: reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry slightly between waterings, but do not allow plants to wilt Temperature: 16-18°C (61-65°F) Fertilizers EC 1.4-1.8 (210-270 ppm N)
Stage 4 Ready for transplanting	Moisture: reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry slightly between waterings, but do not allow plants to wilt Temperature: 13-15°C (55-59°F) Fertilizers: see stage 3
Plug crop time	5-6 weeks
Approximate finish time	10-15 weeks – needs vernalization for flowering
Special tips	Plants should be grown moderately moist; too dry will give yellow leaves The crop needs good air circulation in well-ventilated conditions