easy grow guide

streptocarpus cape cool

(F1 streptocarpus xhybridus)

floranova
creative plant breeding

Plug Production: 288 plugs

Sowing/Media:	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.5-6.0, EC 1.0 mmhos or below. No covering is needed. Sowing 3-5 seeds per cell is recommended.
Germination Stage 1:	Media temperature should be 71-77°F (22-25°C). Keep medium uniformly moist, almost saturated. Light is not required for emergence but is beneficial, maintain high humidity. Emergence should begin after 6-7 days.
Germination Stage 2:	Once fully emerged, temperature can be lowered to 65-71°F (18-22°C) until transplant. Keep light levels at 1000-1500 f.c. for 14-18 hours per day. Cotyledons should have fully expanded in 10-14 days. Begin to dry the surface of the media slightly between irrigations to aid root development and reduce the humidity by 20%. Growth is dramatically slower in cool, low light conditions.
Germination Stages 3 & 4:	Media temperature should be 65-71°F (18-22°C). Keep light levels at 1000-1500 f.c. Keep moist allowing the surface of the media to dry slightly, most importantly avoid over watering and wilt conditions. Feed as required with 100 ppm N from 15-15-15, but avoid ammonium based feeds. Keep media pH 5.5-6.0 and EC <1 mmhos. Keep light levels at 1000-1500 f.c. using supplementary lighting if these can't be achieved naturally, humidity should be 60-70%.

Growing On to Finish: 4-6" (10-15cm) pots

Media:	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.8-6.0, EC <1.0 mmhos. Keep the top of the plug level, or slightly higher than the soil line to avoid the chance of crown rot, not to too high though as this can cause the plant to be unstable and floppy later on.
Temperatures:	Maintain day temperatures at 65-80°F (18-27°C), no higher though as the heat stress can cause the foliage to turn pale in colour and reduce flower size and longevity, so good ventilation is important. Cool temperatures will lengthen crop time and increase the likelihood of crown rot. Night temperatures should be 65-68°F(18-20°C), lower humidity levels as night approaches to control disease.
Light:	Keep light levels between 1000-1500 f.c. (1000-1200 f.c. in the summer). Streptocarpus like the light but not at high intensities. At the above levels you will achieve the best foliage and flower quality. The combination of high light levels and temperatures in the summer can cause the leaf cells to scorch.
Irrigation:	Avoid extremes, too much water without good drainage or too little water can damage the crop. It is best to irrigate when the media surface is dry but the roots still hold some moisture. Sub-irrigation is beneficial to prevent water getting on the foliage. If irrigating overhead, do it as early as possible in the morning and try to keep water temperature close to leaf temperature, as cold water on warm foliage causes leaf cells to scorch, especially in high light.
Fertilizer:	Streptocarpus are light feeders and high salt levels will damage roots, so keep the EC <1.0 mmhos and the pH 5.8-6.0. Feed with 100-125 ppm N from 15-15-15, but avoid ammonium based feeds (Calcium based feeds are recommended). Feed 1-2 times/every 3 irrigations, this will also help to flush the salts out of the media.
Growth Regulators:	Managing moisture, feed, light and temperature are the best way of controlling growth. Sprays of B-Nine (1500-2500ppm) are effective if needed. It is recommended to run your own trials.
Pests:	Thrips, Whitefly, Aphids, Cyclamen mites and Mealy bugs can be a risk.
Diseases/other issues:	Botrytis and Crown rot are the main risks. Botrytis can be controlled by managing the environment well, but preventative fungicide sprays are recommended. Crown rot is mainly caused by sinking the plug too deep when transplanting, so care should be taken.

Plug Times:

288 plugs (3-5 seeds per cell)	7-9 weeks

Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to Finish	Total Crop Time
4"(10cm) / 6" (15cm) Pots	1x plug	6-8 / 8-10 weeks	14-17 / 15-19 weeks

Crop times are based on optimum conditions. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can lengthen the crop times stated above.