



Flitto

# New Crop Report

*Veronica pinnata* 'Blue Feathers'

*Veronica porphyriana*



Veronica pinnata - New Crop Summary & Recommendations

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Part of the requirements for  
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# Taxonomy

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- Scientific names: *Veronica pinnata*
- Synonyms: *Veronica porphyriana*
- Common name: Speedwell is the common name for the genus.
- Family: Scrophulariaceae.

# Geographic Distribution

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- Continents: Asia.
- Countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia.
- States/provinces/regions: No information.
- Latitudinal ranges:  $\sim 45^\circ$  and greater (unknown northern boundary).
- Altitude: Alpine.
- General climactic conditions: Northern temperate.
- Tendency to naturalize/become invasive: If other speedwell may be used as an indicator, it has the potential (e.g. corn speedwell in Illinois).

# Native Habitat

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- ◉ Habitat: Mountains, hillsides, and disturbed areas.
- ◉ Plant community: Other plants that thrive in the same harsh conditions.

# Taxonomic Description

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- Overall plant habit/description: Upright low-grower.
- Root system type: Fibrous.
- Presence/type of underground storage: Rhizomes.
- Leaves: Narrow and usually opposite, but can be whorled or alternate on flowering stalks. *V. pinnata* has finely toothed, filigreed leaves. *V. porphyriana* has lanceolate leaves.
- Flower: Short tube with 4-5 spreading lobes. 2 functional stamens. Compact racemes.
- Season of bloom: May-August.
- Uses by indigenous people: None.
- Other uses: None.
- Additional notes: Good for crevice gardening.

# Varieties/Cultivars on the Market

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- *V. pinnata* 'Blue Feathers': Soft-blue flowers on upright flower spikes with finely cut filigreed leaves.
- None for *V. porphyriana*.

# Propagation Methods

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- Vegetative vs. seed: Either.
- Plant tissue sources: Softwood cuttings, 2-3 nodes.
- Propagation methods/temperatures: 2-3 weeks at 72-77°F in well-drained medium.
- No. of seeds/flower: No information.
- Seed dormancy: None.
- Germination temperatures/duration: 68-75°F, uncovered, 7-14 days for germination.



# Crop Ideotype

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- Floriferous, low-growing types with high drought tolerance and long flowering season.

# Market Niche

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- Target sales dates: May through June.
- Potential holidays for this product: Mother's Day.
- Programmability: It needs vernalization to flower.
- Crops to compete with: *Veronica spp.* and other crevice plants like sedum.
- Crop "story": Out of the alpine regions of northern Asia and into your crevice.
- Possibility of becoming a major crop: Very likely due to the popularity of *Veronica spp.* and rock gardening.
- Initial crop limitations/problems: None.
- Is the crop identifiable by growers/consumers: *V. pinnata* 'Blue Feathers' is gaining popularity and is recognized by many. *V. porphyriana* is not popular but is recognizable as a speedwell due to the popularity of the genus.
- How soon it can be available: Due to highly successful propagation by cuttings, these crops may be available soon. *V. pinnata* 'Blue Feathers' seeds are already widely available.

# Anticipated Cultural Requirements

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- Winter hardiness: Z3-8.
- Heat/drought tolerance: Can't dry out.
- Temperature (day/night): 68°F/68°F (0 DIF).
- Light requirements: Long days may encourage flower bud development, full sun recommended (3000-5000 fc).
- Nutrition: 150-200 ppm 15-0-15 with every other watering.
- Soil: Gritty, well-drained soils with a pH range of 5.8-6.8.
- Plant growth regulators: A-Rest, B-Nine, Sumagic, and Bonzi.
- Container size: 4", 6", or 2 plants/ 1 gallon.
- Disease resistance/susceptibility: Susceptible to *Botrytis*, *Pythium*, *Verticillium*, and powdery mildew.
- Fungicides/insecticides: Recommended fungicide for *Botrytis* control.
- Other: Potential problems with thrips and aphids.

# Production Schedule

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- Estimated number of weeks from planting to flower bud initiation, flower development, and shipping: 10-14 weeks total crop time from seed. 8-10 weeks to flowering from vernalized cuttings.
- Estimated time, type, and quantity of special treatment applications: 10 weeks at 41°F for vernalization of cuttings.
- Target sales date: Mother's Day.

# Genetic Improvement

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- Drought tolerance and different colors.

# Literature Cited

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