Feel Lucky With Limerick Trifolium

Kevin Roethle

The Limerick trifolium series from Ball Ingenuity offers a unique foliage option if you’re looking for easy-to-grow component plants for combinations. Limerick’s spreading habit plays nicely with other plants and provides a fun, trailing texture in your mixes. Its “shamrock” foliage has bold patterns and is currently available in three varieties (Estelle, Isabella and Jessica) exclusively through Ball Seed. Two additional varieties will debut at California Spring Trials this year.

Limerick earned a Floradania Innovation Award in 2014. The series is a great choice for your spring programs. Here are some growing guidelines to produce the best-looking plants for retail sales.

Media & temperature
Limerick Trifolium are best-suited to be finished in a 4- to 5-in. container. A pH of 5.6 to 6.0 is optimum. Limerick Trifolium prefer a well-drained media. In terms of greenhouse temperature, the crop can be grown relatively cool and can handle nights down to 50F (10C). Please note that growing cool will extend the crop time.

- Night: 55 to 60F (13 to 16C)
- Day: 62 to 68F (17 to 20C)

Watering & nutrition
Limerick Trifolium does NOT like to be dried down. Keep its media moist for best results. Overall, it’s a medium- to low-feed crop. The EC of the soil should be around 1.8. Don’t allow it to climb over 2.0.

Ventilation
As temperatures rise, air movement is key for success. Outdoor planting works well. If grown inside a greenhouse, frequent ventilation helps to control disease pressure.

Light
Limerick Trifolium benefits from high light environments; 5,000 to 8,000 foot candles are recommended.

Pests & disease
Thrips are the biggest pest affecting trifolium. Biological controls work best, as some chemicals can burn the
foliage. Before spraying, it’s recommended to do a small trial to ensure there won’t be issues. Trifolium fungus is the biggest disease concern for trifolium. The Limerick varieties have better resistance to fungus, but best practices should still be applied. Ventilation/air movement is the best way to prevent this from becoming an issue.

**Controlling growth**
Although generally not needed, Limerick Trifolium can be controlled using a Bonzi drench at 2 ppm.

**Scheduling**
Pot Size: 4-in. pot
Plants Per Pot: 1 ppp
Crop Time: 5 to 6 weeks

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*Kevin Roethle is head of new product development for Ball Ingenuity at Ball Seed. Visit [www.ballingenuity.com](http://www.ballingenuity.com) to learn more about their product lineup.*