Germination:
Emergence of seeds in 5-7 days at 22-24ºC (72-76ºF).
Seeds may be covered with a light layer of coarse vermiculite which helps maintain moisture levels.
Media pH should be 6.0-6.2. Media EC 0.5-0.75.
Salvia needs much water. Therefore it is advised to maintain a medium water content but do not saturate seedlings.
Light is necessary for the germination process. Provide 10-100 footcandles (100-1000 lux) in the chamber.

Plugs:
For an optimum seedling/young plant development, managing of moisture is very critical during the first week of germination. Avoid the medium to get saturated.
A saturated medium reduces the number of transplantable seedlings. After development of cotyledons, reduce temperature to 20-21ºC (68-70ºF).
It is advised not to fertilize in a too early stage.
Media EC 0.5-0.75
Salvia can be grown alongside other crops as an indicator of too high a concentration of salts in the growing media.
When the roots have developed and penetrate the plug cell and the first true leaves have developed, maintain medium moisture content in the plugs.
Water stress may promote premature flowering.
Lower temperatures to 18-20ºC (65-68ºF).
Fertilize developed seedlings at 40-50 ppm with calcium and potassium nitrates (14-0-14 or 12-2-13-6 Ca-3 Mg). Ammonium concentrations exceeding 5ppm can be toxic. Symptoms show as a gray cast or browning on immature leaves.
Media EC 0.75-1.0. High EC causes stunted growth.
In case Salvia plants show downward cupping of the leaves this indicates that the medium is either too dry, the EC level too high or the temperature too low.
If the roots hold plug mass well together and the young plants have 2-3 sets of true leaves, keep the temperature at 18-20ºC (65-68ºF) to harden the young plants and to prevent stretching.

Growing on:
After 6-7 weeks seedlings can be transplanted in a well-drained media with a pH of 6.0-6.2.
Allow media to dry slightly between waterings. Do not allow plants to wilt. Plants can be grown at 21-24ºC (70-75ºF) days and 13-16ºC (55-60ºF) nights. Fertilize regularly 100-150 ppm with a calcium-based fertilizer.
A combination of low feed and cool temperatures may promote yellowing of the leaves. Salvia’s are sensitive to high salts and levels should be monitored to avoid leaf drop.
Media EC 0.75-1.0

Growth regulators:
Salvia is responsive to DIF, B-nine applications, A-rest, Bonzi and/or Sumagic treatments.

Pests:
Thrips, Aphids, Whitefly, and Spider Mites.
Control: common insecticides can be used, check for labelled products.

Diseases:
Alternaria Leaf Spot, Powdery Mildew, Rust and Corynespora Leaf Spot
Good hygiene is essential.

Scheduling:
5-7 weeks for plugs. Pack and pot production may need an additional 5-7 weeks.

Family: Lamiaceae
Use: Outdoor containers, pot and pack, suitable for borders and beds.
Plant type: Annual
Height in pot: 15-20 cm (6-8 in.)
Garden height: 30-35 cm (12-15 in.)
Seed count: 250-300 seeds/gram (7,090-8,500 seeds/oz)
Seed count varies by variety and seed lot
Seed form: Raw.