

Warm Climate Production Guidelines for *Agastache*

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Acapulco Orange (Bodger Botanicals) is a new hybrid series of *Agastache*. Long blooming season, herbal foliage fragrance and tough in both summer and winter trials at the University of Florida's Gainesville Trial Gardens.

I was struck with the emergence of *Agastache* hybrids into our market in the past couple of years. For those of you who have never heard of *Agastache*, it is a mint relative (like *Salvia*), likes bright light, and has a dusky gray-green tone to the foliage. The flowers are usually high in oils and make great insect attractant in the garden.

Agastache was originally a seed produced plant, but newer genetics are moving it into the quasi-perennial market as well. First, there was the annual Honeybee Series (*Agastache foeniculum*) from PanAmerican Seed, and now the emergence of hybrids of *Agastache* with a more *salvia*-like look.

The series Bodger debuted was called the Acapulco series, bred by Kieft, and it is a really nice step forward in genetics. The plants have a more compact growth habit than some of the older hybrids and some really nice colors as well. I was most impressed with Acapulco Salmon & Pink for a strong bi-color effect and a good pot habit. The Acapulco Series currently includes Acapulco Rose, Acapulco Salmon & Pink, and Acapulco Orange. So if you are looking for something new to introduce that can be grown in the same way you would grow bedding *salvia*, give these new *Agastache* a try.

These are spring crops in northern Florida, although they survived temperatures as low as 20°F in our 2005 winter trials with no damage to foliage. Liners should be started in Jan-February, seed about weeks earlier. *Agastache can* and its hybrids bloom throughout the warm season. Other entries in our trials with good summer performance included *Agastache astromontanus* 'Pink Pop', *Agastache rupestris* 'Apache Orange' and *Agastache cana* 'Heather Queen'.

Agastache foeniculum and *A. rugosa* are spring interest with poor heat tolerance. These are excellent bee attractants, although they also attract a wide variety of other insects as well.

Commercial Production guidelines for *Agastache*.

Fertilization – In general 150 ppm Nitrogen, normal bedding plant fertility is fine.

Watering – Normal production irrigation is fine, never let plants wilt as they will lose lower leaves and reduce overall quality. Drought stress also delays, and reduces flowering.

Media –All commercial peat lite media work fine, pH optimum in standard bedding plant range.

Production Temperatures –Temperatures of 55-60F night and 65-75F daytime temperatures are

adequate, but warmer temperatures are fine you may need a little more PGR to keep plants compact though. Cooler temperatures will also give deeper color to the blooms.

Light level – Full sun production helps to keep plants compact.

Propagation – Seed or cutting produced depending on the series. The Acapulco series is cutting produced and sold as rooted liners.

Crop timing – From liner to sale in 4" 4-6 weeks, gallons take a few weeks longer.

Growth regulators – Daminozide rates range between 2500-5000 ppm. Paclobutrazol as a drench rates start at 0.25-1 ppm and repeat as needed.



Pink Pop is another *Agastache astromontanus* from seed (Johnny's Seed). Though the flowers are smaller and color impact less than Acapulco types, this is also a strong landscape plant.



Agastache rupestris 'Apache Orange' (Unwin's Seed) was another strong performer but again smaller flower size than the Acapulco types.

NEED RESOURCES

[Bodger Botanicals](#)
[Johnny's Seed](#)
[Unwin's Seed](#)
[Proven Selections](#)
[Statewide Trials Website](#)
[Environmental Horticulture Website](#)

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