

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Celosia

Celosia is an annual flower that attracts beneficial insects, is deer resistant and blooms throughout the summer and into the fall in several colors depending on the variety, such as red, pink, yellow, gold and many more. Celosia is often used as a bedding plant, which means it should be planted in groups where they can grow together and their colors can be highlighted because they are so vibrant.

### To plant:

It is possible to plant Celosia seeds directly in the garden after the last spring frost, but they take a while to reach their blooming stage so it may be a better idea to start their growing process early by planting seeds inside. Sow the seeds indoors six weeks before the last frost date.

### To grow:

Celosia grows best in full sun. It can reach up to 2 feet high. If it is planted in poorly drained soil, it may suffer from root rot. Celosia therefore grows best in sandy or loamy soil or when planted in raised beds so drainage is better. Some varieties of Celosia will grow taller than others, so to prevent these varieties from being damaged by the wind, plant them together so they can support themselves or utilize stakes. Celosia make good companion plants for marigold, zinnia and amaranth.

### To harvest:

It's probably not the greatest idea to harvest the shorter varieties of Celosia just because they will be difficult to display in a bouquet due to their short stems, but the taller varieties make for great cut flowers and



[Celosia seed available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

beautiful, vibrant and unique displays in a bouquet. It is also possible to plant your Celosia in a pot to grow outdoors all summer long, and then when poor weather begins to arrive, bring the pot indoors. This way, Celosia may last an extra few weeks than if they were only outside.

### What Celosia craves:

To ensure your Celosia plant grows to its best potential, amend the soil with compost prior to planting. Then, fertilize the plants monthly to continue encouraging flowers to form. Fertilize the plants with a complete, organic plant food. If there is a lot of rain during the spring, you may need to fertilize the Celosia plant with more nitrogen. If your plants begin to look yellowish right after planting, fertilize with one dose of fish emulsion and this should help.

### Where to buy Celosia seeds:

Check out Celosia seed on our website at [ufseeds.com!](http://ufseeds.com)



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