

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Aster is a flower that looks similar to daisies because of its bright yellow, round center that is surrounded by colorful petals. Aster is a perennial, which means it comes back year after year. It grows in many different colors with white, blue, pink and purple being the most common. Aster flowers can reach up to 8 feet tall depending on the variety, and the flowers will attract butterflies to the garden.

### To plant:

Begin Aster seeds indoors six weeks before the last frost. Plant two seeds 1/8-inch deep in a small pot with a sterile potting mix. Make sure the soil is thoroughly watered after planting the seeds. Cover the pots with a plastic bag to keep the environment warm and moist, which will encourage germination. Seeds should sprout within 10 days. Remove the plastic once the seeds sprout.

### To grow:

Once seedlings have their second set of leaves, thin them so only the strongest one remains in each pot. Once seedlings are 6 inches tall, transplant them outdoors. Space them 18 inches apart. Aster grows best in full sun or partial shade. In addition to growing well in a flower bed, Aster also grows well in containers as a potted plant. Instead of transplanting seedlings to a flower bed, they can also be transplanted to a 12-inch diameter pot outside. After transplanting, add mulch around the plants to keep the soil cool and retain moisture. Aster flowers require 1 inch of water per week. They grow better when trimmed lightly and when their dead flowers are deadheaded.



[Alpinus Mix Aster seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

Deadheading is done by pinching off the dead blooms. Also, with taller varieties of the plant, cut back any stems that begin to grow leggy. Every three years, divide the Aster plants to maintain the flower quality and growth.

### To harvest:

Aster flowers will bloom into the late summer and early fall. Aster flowers are very popular to cut and put in vases because of their long-lasting blooms. Aster also has a sturdy stalk that makes it good for vases. To harvest, cut the stem low to the ground and check for insects that may be hiding in the stem, flowers or leaves. Bring the cuttings indoors and place in water immediately.

### What Aster craves:

Prior to planting, amend the soil with compost or a natural fertilizer. Each spring, add a 2-inch layer of compost around the Aster flowers. Add a general fertilizer once



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a month to the Aster plants to encourage the best growth.

## Where to buy Aster seeds:

Urban Farmer sells different varieties of Aster flower seeds that produce brightly colored blooms.

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



[Powder Puff Mix Aster seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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