

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Delosperma

Delosperma, also known as Ice Plant, is native to Africa, and the cold-hardy versions of the plant are from South Africa.

Delosperma is actually a succulent perennial that does well when used as groundcover. It blooms with daisy-like flowers. The Ice Plant actually isn't called the Ice Plant due to its cold hardiness, but because its petals shimmer as if they were covered in ice. The plants can reach 6 inches tall and span 4 feet wide.

To plant:

Plant Delosperma in full sun, although they can tolerate partial shade. Scatter Delosperma seeds over the ground and do not cover them with soil because they require light to germinate. Since it is actually classified as a succulent, Delosperma needs to be in well-drained soil, but the soil's quality doesn't always matter because succulents thrive in poor soil. The best soil to plant Delosperma in is gravelly, sandy or sandy loam soils. In cooler climates, plant Delosperma in mid-summer. In hotter climates, like the United States southwest, plant Delosperma in the fall.

To grow:

Delosperma can actually become invasive if planted in areas with consistently dry soil. Since they are succulents, they don't require a whole lot of maintenance once they are established. Take care not to overwater the Delosperma, and they thrive in drought-like conditions. Water the plants weekly during the heat of the summer, but do not water these plants during the winter months. You can still grow Delosperma in regions with



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

snow, but cover them with a frost blanket. Prune out the winter-damaged stems in the mid-spring to prepare the plant for the summer months. During the warmer months, make sure you keep weeds under control because they will compete with the plant for water and nutrients.

To harvest:

Since Delosperma works great as a groundcover, it isn't always the best cut flower to display in bouquets. However, you can propagate Delosperma from cuttings. Take the cuttings in the spring, summer or fall. Delosperma also can be propagated by divisions and seeds. If propagating by divisions, it is best to do so in the spring.

What Delosperma craves:

Succulents don't require fertilizing, and Delosperma is not an exception. Succulents like Delosperma thrive in poorer soils, so there's no need to fertilize these plants. If you really desire to fertilize the plants,



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only do so in the fall. Use organic or natural fertilizers. Ice Plants can be prone to winter kill when over fertilized.

Where to buy Delosperma seeds:

You can find drought tolerant Delosperma that will bloom all summer long on our website at ufseeds.com!



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



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