

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Dianthus is a compact flower that grows well in containers or in the garden. It comes in many different colors with some flowers featuring multiple colors in each bloom. Colors include white, pink, red, yellow and more. Many varieties of the flower are a perennial, meaning it will come back year after year. Like the colors, the Dianthus fragrance also varies from light to powerful depending on the variety. Dianthus belong to the same flower family that includes carnations. Dianthus plants are usually small, ranging from 6 to 18 inches in height.

To plant:

Begin Dianthus seeds indoors up to eight weeks before the last frost. Cover seeds lightly with soil and space them 10 inches apart. They should germinate in 10 to 21 days. Dianthus can be planted outdoors in the spring after frost or in the autumn before frost.

To grow:

Transfer Dianthus outdoors when the danger of frost has passed. Space them 12 to 18 inches apart. Dianthus looks good in clumps and will tolerate crowding. It is a good rock garden plant, so don't over care for it. Dianthus does best when it receives full sun, but plant them in an area protected from the wind. They prefer fertile and well-drained soil with a pH below 7.0. Don't mulch around dianthus and water normally, but don't get water on the leaves.

Deadhead the Dianthus to prevent self-sowing. Deadheading also encourages additional blooming. During the blooming period, take care to remove dead stems and brown



[Sweet William Dianthus seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

leaves to direct more energy to the flowers. Once the flowers have died, cut the stems back to ground level.

To harvest:

Dianthus have a fragrance, and they do make good cut flowers. However, some of the shorter varieties may be tough to store in a vase. If planning on arranging Dianthus in a cut flower display, grow the taller varieties to allow for plenty of stem. Depending on the variety, Dianthus will blossom from May to August. When cutting Dianthus, leave an inch or so of the stem above the ground. Harvest the flowers when the blooms are still closed and don't cut the stems in the middle of a hot day. Harvest during cooler morning or evening hours to not damage the plant.

What Dianthus craves:

Dianthus is typically a carefree plant, but it will benefit from fertilizer. Prior to planting the seeds or transplanting the Dianthus outdoors, mix compost in with the



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soil at the planting site. A start fertilizer can be added at the time of planting. Add complete fertilizer each spring before blooming begins. Add a mineral fertilizer after pruning the flowers and before new growth begins. Dianthus are typically not heavy feeders, so do not overfertilize.

Where to buy Dianthus seeds:

Urban Farmer sells Dianthus that bloom in beautiful rich colors.

Check out our Dianthus seed selection on our website at ufseeds.com!



Flavora Rose Shades Dianthus seeds available at ufseeds.com



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