

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Ipomoea are also known as morning glories. They are annual, climbing flowers with heart-shaped leaves and trumpet flowers in a variety of colors. Morning glories get their name because they bloom in the early morning and bloom dies before the end of the day. Morning glories are often grown on pergolas or fence rows, as they require support for their climbing vines. They can reach up to 15 feet tall and attract hummingbirds and butterflies to the garden. The classic morning glory is the Heavenly Blue variety.



[Heavenly Blue Ipomoea seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

### To plant:

Sow morning glory seeds directly outdoors after the last frost. To increase the germination rate, file down the seed just enough to break the coating and then soak for 24 hours. This will encourage the seeds to send out a root. Cover the seeds with  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of soil and space seeds about 6 inches apart. After planting, water the soil thoroughly. Morning glory seeds can be planted indoors but do not transplant well. If planting indoors, plant the seeds in 3-inch peat pots to then plant into the garden as to not disturb the morning glories.

### To grow:

Morning glories prefer a spot with full sun in soil that has good drainage. Support the climbing vine by adding a trellis or planting along a fence row. Morning glories are typically low maintenance and only require watering when the soil becomes dry. Mulch around the vine to retain moisture and prevent weeds. Morning glories are an annual, but they will easily self-seed themselves. If you do not want the flowers

to self-seed, remove the spent blooms before they turn into seed pods. Morning glories are fast growers, quicker than similar vining flowers like clematis.

### To harvest:

Morning glories aren't harvested as cut flowers because their blooms will die within 24 hours after blooming. However, morning glory seeds can be harvested for future plantings. To harvest the seeds, look for dead flowers on the vine that are ready to drop off. Once gone, the blooms leave behind a small seed pod at the end of the stem. Crack one of the pods open if it is hard and brown. If there are small black seeds inside, the seed pods are ready for harvest. Cut the stems below the seed pods and bring the pods indoors. Crack open the pods over a paper towel and then dry them in a warm, dark place until the seeds are hard to puncture with a fingernail. Once dried, place in a sealed container until ready for planting.



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## What Ipomoea craves:

Immediately after planting the seeds, apply a balanced liquid fertilizer. Do not fertilize more than this, as overfertilization can cause the morning glory vine to grow more foliage than flowers.

## Where to buy Ipomoea seeds:

Urban Farmer sells a great selection of Ipomoea that blooms into blue, white, purple and crimson colors.

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



Grandpa Ott Ipomoea seeds available at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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