

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Nemophila is an annual flower that is often called Baby Blue Eyes. It will have spots and veins, and it can reach 16 inches in height and comes in blue, purple and white. Each flower has five petals. Nemophila grow well in a wildflower garden or a rock garden. They will attract butterflies and bees to the garden. Nemophila originated in California.

To plant:

Begin Nemophila seeds indoors in peat pots six to eight weeks before setting them outdoors. For direct sowing, plant in mid-March, when a frost may still be possible. In warmer climates, Nemophila should be planted in the late fall. Seeds will sprout within 21 days. Just barely cover the seed with soil and space them up to 16 inches apart, though planting them closer is acceptable as well. Since Nemophila are one of the first annuals to grow in the spring, continue to direct sow every three weeks to enjoy the blooms for a longer period of time.

To grow:

Nemophila prefers soil that is cool and moist, and it grows best in partial shade, as the plant will die if the soil becomes too hot. Add mulch around the base of the plant to keep the soil cool and retain moisture. Water Nemophila frequently to keep the soil moist. To encourage a bushier formation of the plant, pinch the tips of the growth with off with your fingers. Deadhead the spent flowers to encourage more growth.

Nemophila prefer soil with a pH of 6.5 to 7.5. Sometimes, aphids can be a problem for Nemophila. If you notice aphids, use a



[Baby Blue Eyes Nemophila seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

soapy water mixture to wash them from the plant.

To harvest:

In hotter climates, Nemophila will bloom midspring, but in cooler climates it will bloom through the summer. Since these flowers typically grow lower to the ground, they don't always make for the best cut flowers. Although they are annuals, oftentimes they will self-sow themselves and come back the following spring. In some cases, Nemophila can become invasive. If you do not wish for the flowers to self-sow themselves, deadhead the spent blooms before they go to seed. To harvest the seeds for future planting, cut off the heads of the plants after blooming and dry them in a paper bag to use the following spring.

What Nemophila craves:

Nemophila often grow as wildflowers or can be grown in poor, sandy or gritty soils, so there is no need to fertilize. Overfertilization



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will produce more leaves and less blooms.

Where to buy Nemophila seeds:

Urban Farmer offers Nemophila seeds that grow quickly into beautiful blooms.

Check out our Nemophila seed selection on our website at ufseeds.com



[Five Spot Nemophila seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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