

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Ratibida is a perennial native to many parts of North America and is closely related to Rudbeckia. Rudbeckia is distantly related to flowers like zinnias and sunflowers. Ratibida can reach 60 inches in height and blooms with petals drooping downward and has dark green foliage.

To plant:

Starting Ratibida indoors requires vernalization, which is wrapping planted pots in plastic and then placing them in the refrigerator for a week. Ratibida also can be direct sown outdoors in May or early June. If starting indoors, begin the vernalization six weeks before transplanting the Ratibida outdoors. Vernalization is required to induce the plant's flowering season due to exposure to winter. Ratibida should receive vernalization treatment for up to six weeks before planting. Plant seeds 1/8 inch deep. Seeds should germinate within 42 days. When planting the seeds, barely cover them with soil.

To grow:

When transplanting, space them to 12 to 24 inches apart in the garden. Ratibida can be susceptible to powdery and downy mildew, fungal spots and leaf smut. To prevent this, mulch around the plants and only water in the mornings. When watering, avoid getting water on the leaves of the plant. Frequently harvesting the flowers to place in vases also prevents mildew. Ratibida is resistant to heat and grows best in full sun and ordinary soil with good drainage. Ratibida make good candidates for xeriscaping, which is landscaping in areas that eliminates the



[Mexican Hat Ratibida seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

need for irrigation, as these flowers are drought resistant. The taller plants may need to be staked if exposed to wind to prevent damage.

Ratibida will bloom from mid-summer to fall, and it attracts butterflies and other pollinators. Deadhead the spent blooms to prolong the blooming period. If blooms are left on the plant, Ratibida will reseed itself. Ratibida can be cut back before winter months but if left standing, the seed heads will provide edible seed for the birds to eat in the winter.

To harvest:

Ratibida is a heavy bloomer and has downward facing petals, which makes them easy to arrange in a bouquet of other cut flowers that may have upward or outward facing petals. If keeping Ratibida in a vase, snip the leaves off the stem to prevent mildew.



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What Ratibida craves:

Ratibida doesn't require a lot of fertilizer and one dose in the fall months should be enough for the plant. It often grows as a wildflower in thickets and prairies where the soil's nutrients may not be the best.

Where to buy Ratibida seeds:

Urban Farmer's Ratibida seeds bloom into an attractive flower with dainty petals.

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



[Prairie Coneflower seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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