

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Thunbergia is also known as Black Eyed Susan Vine, but it is not even remotely in the same family as the Black Eyes Susan flowers.

Thunbergia is native to eastern Africa, and it is a climbing plant. It produces daisy-like flowers in orange, yellow and white. Since it is a vining plant, Thunbergia grows well on fence rows, on trellises, mailbox posts, in a hanging container or up lampposts. It looks very pretty when grown in a container on a balcony or porch railing where its vines can hang down.

To plant:

These plants are grown from seed, and oftentimes they are directly seeded into the garden. If planting directly into the garden, wait until the last frost has passed. They also can be started indoors six to eight weeks before the last frost. It is recommended the gardener uses peat pots when starting Thunbergia indoors, because Thunbergia doesn't perform well when its roots are disturbed.

Thunbergia seeds will take a while to germinate, up to 25 days, so be sure to mark the area where you plant them if you are sowing them directly in your garden. Seeds may germinate more quickly if you soak them in water overnight prior to planting them.

In addition to growing them from seed, Thunbergia also can be propagated by cuttings. Cut a 6 to 8-inch stem from a growing tip and then root it in water.



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

To grow:

These plants grow well in full sun or light shade, however, if you are planting them in a hotter region, it is best to make sure the plants receive afternoon shade. Thunbergia does best when grown in mix soils, so amend soil with compost prior to planting.

Keep in mind these plants don't tolerate drought well, and this is something to look out for especially if you are growing them in containers, as the soil in the containers will dry out more quickly.

To harvest:

Flowers will bloom from summer through fall, but these aren't great plants to harvest and display indoors.

What Thunbergia craves:

Since Thunbergia craves rich soil, in addition to amending the soil with compost prior to planting, add a general-purpose fertilizer every 4 to 6 weeks.



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Where to buy Thunbergia seeds:

You can find Thunbergia seed that produces large and abundant orange blooms on our website at ufseeds.com!



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



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