# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

The Lychnis plant is a perennial that grows best in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-10. It can reach up to 32 inches high, and it typically blooms red with a silvery-gray foliage cover.

# To plant:

Lychnis seed can be planted directly into the garden, and the benefit from being prechilled in the refrigerator for two weeks before they are sown in the garden. Direct sow the seeds in average soil after all danger of frost have passed. Prior to planting, work organic matter into the top 6 inches of soil. When planting, barely press the seeds into the soil, because light aids in germination, and space the seeds 8 inches apart. Seedlings should emerge within 28 days.

#### To grow:

Lychnis prefers full sun, but it can tolerate partial shade. During its growing season, be sure to keep weeds under control and apply an organic mulch of aged bark or shredded leaves to maintain a natural look. Water the plants at least once a week, and be sure to water early in the morning to give the leaves time to dry. If you are planting a taller variety of this plant, keep in mind you may need to utilize staking in order to keep them upright. Deadhead the spent blooms to prolong the blooming period. Divide plants every two or three years. Lychnis is deer resistant because of its fuzzy foliage, and it can also be grown in containers.

#### To harvest:

Becasue of its lengthy stem and dazzling appearance, Lychnis can be added to cut



Lychnis seed available at ufseeds.com

flower bouquets for a flash of color. They Lychnis coronaria variety is a long bloomer, meaning it will last for quite a while if displayed in a bouquet.

# What Lychnis craves:

Fertilize Lychnis in the spring to encourage the plant's blooming season. When fertilizing, be sure to use a fertilizer high in phosphorous, which is the middle number on the package, and utilize a granular fertilizer. Spread the granular fertilizer around the base of the plant, making sure the fertilizer reaches as far as the foliage's furthest stretches. Water deeply after applying the fertilizer so it absorbs into the soil. If using liquid fertilizer, spray it directly onto the plant's foliage and also be sure to drench the soil around the base of the plant.

# Where to buy Lychnis seeds:

You can find the vibrant red Lychnis seed on our website at ufseeds.com!







