

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Citronella, also known as Mosquito Plant, is actually a member of the geranium family. By crushing one of the plant's leaves and rubbing it against the skin, it produces a wonderful scent that also keeps mosquitoes away. One thing gardeners should be aware of is the plant itself isn't a deterrent, it only deters pests when the leaves are crushed and then used. The plant can reach up to three feet high, and it is frequently used to grow along a border or to add different heights and textures in the garden.

To plant:

Plant Citronella in the spring after all danger of frost has passed. A good rule of thumb is to plant Citronella at about the same time you plant tomatoes outside. It is best to plant Citronella that has already been established and not grow it from seed. You can either plant a Citronella plant in a container by filling the container half full with soil, setting the plant in the container and then adding soil to make sure the top of the root ball is even with the container. Citronella plants also can be planted in the garden. Once planted, thoroughly water the plant.

To grow:

It is important to note when watering Citronella, gardeners should be sure to water around the base of the plant to prevent water damage to the foliage. The foliage of the Citronella plant is what produces the unique, beautiful smell when crushed.

Also, be sure to pinch off any yellowing or dead foliage to stimulate new growth.



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

Citronella likes full sun, and if it doesn't receive enough light it will become lanky. Cut the plant back, make a mental note to place it in a better area with full sun next year and it will grow back in a better shape. Although Citronella is relatively drought resistant, be sure it receives plenty of water during the summer months.

To harvest:

Citronella makes an excellent addition to a cut-flower bouquet, especially to add a bit of greenery and display if you are an outdoor diner. The scent may help aid in keeping mosquitoes away from your eating area. The leaves on the Citronella plant also might aid in holding the other flowers in the bouquet in place better.

What Citronella craves:

Prior to planting, work in compost and a 5-10-5 fertilizer. After planting, feed the plant regularly with an all-purpose fertilizer.



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Where to buy Citronella seeds:

Urban Farmer offers Citronella that blooms citrus yellow flowers that can be used to keep mosquitoes away.

Check out Citronella seeds on our website at ufseeds.com!



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



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