### URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Delphiniums are tall, beautifully colored perennial with unique foliage that typically grows best in cooler environments. They make good cutting flowers and come in a true shade of blue, as well as other shades.

#### To plant:

Begin Delphinium seeds indoors in the summer. Prior to planting in a seed tray, fill the tray up to ½ inch from the top with a seed-starting compost that is sterile. Mist the compost and let it soak for five minutes prior to planting the seeds. Space seeds 1 inch apart and cover with ¼ inch of soil, because light harms the germination process. Mist the compost with water and press into the surface. Place the seed tray outdoors where temperatures stay around 75 degrees. Keep the seed tray moist until germination, which can take up to 20 days.

#### To grow:

Once the Delphinium reaches 1 inch tall and has two true leaves, transplant the seedlings into a pot and keep the seedlings well-watered for the rest of the summer. Place the pots in the intended planting site and extend the time the Delphinium spends in the area by one hour each day. This will acclimate the Delphinium to outdoor exposure. Plant them in partial shade and make sure to plant when the soil is moist. Soil must be fast-draining. Space the Delphinium transplants 1 foot apart and mulch them heavily. Keep watered. In the spring, add lime or wood ashes around the plant as it loves an alkaline environment. Delphiniums may need to be staked to protect them from the wind. Add stakes when



Imperial Mix Delphinium seeds available at ufseeds.com

the Delphinium is no more than 12 inches high. Deadheading can encourage more growth in the Delphinium plant, so remove spent flowers. Once the blooms fade on the stalk, cut the stalks back to below the lowest flower. Once Delphiniums are finished blooming, cut them back to the ground and new shoots may appear. Delphinium is frost tolerant.

#### To harvest:

If Delphinium is cut and brought indoors as soon as the blooms open on the plant, the plant will bloom again. When arranging Delphinium in a vase, add sugar, lemon juice and bleach to the water. This will preserve the arrangement so it blooms for a longer period of time.

#### What Delphiniums crave:

Once Delphinium has sprouted, feed it with a 12-12-12 fertilizer that is diluted to a fourth of its strength six weeks before transplanting them from the pots. When planted in the









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ground, feed it monthly with a powdered, all-purpose fertilizer. To apply, remove the mulch and add two to three tablespoons to the ground at the base of each flower. Replace the mulch and water thoroughly.

## Where to buy Delphinium seeds:

Urban Farmer offers Delphinium seeds that grow into excellent cutting flowers.

Check out our Delphinium seed selection on our website at <u>ufseeds.com!</u>



Delphinium seeds available at ufseeds.com





