URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

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

Digitalis, also known as foxglove, has long, tubular flowers growing on a tall stem in varying colors. Some Digitalis varieties can reach up to 6 feet in height.

To plant:

Digitalis can be grown from seed, but it won't produce flowers until its second year of growth. It will produce roots and leaves in its first year. If growing from seed, plant the seeds in the late summer after seed pods from other Digitalis plants have appeared. Since the seeds need light to germinate, scatter them across the surface of the ground and don't cover them with soil. Water the soil thoroughly after planting the seeds. Seeds will germinate within 30 days. Digitalis seeds also can be started indoors in the late fall, winter or spring. Surface sow the seeds and space them 1 inch apart. When planting, keep in mind of the location so the tall Digitalis doesn't cast a shadow on shorter sun-loving plants and hinder their growth.

To grow:

Once seedlings emerge, thin them to 12 inches apart. Digitalis are versatile, and depending on the climate it is grown in, it can grow in full shade to full sun. If a summer is hotter, the Digitalis plant will need more shade. Digitalis do best in rich and well-drained soil, and they grow well if the soil is kept moist throughout growth. Digitalis plants reseed themselves and deadheading the spent blooms will decrease this. However, if the goal is for even more Digitalis plants the following year, allow for the plant's last flowers to dry by leaving



Strawberry Digitalis seeds available at ufseeds.com

them on the stem. They will then drop seeds. Since some Digitalis flowers can reach an impressive height, they may require staking. Plant them in a wind-protected area to prevent damage to the tall stalks.

Be aware that Digitalis is poisonous if ingested. This can be handy, as deer avoid eating the plant, but keep young children and pets away from the plant.

To harvest:

Digitalis will begin flowering in the middle of summer. Because of its height and long-lasting blooms, Digitalis makes good cut flowers. Cutting the flowers to display in a vase also helps in preventing reseeding. Digitalis seeds can be harvested by waiting for the seed pods to turn brown and then holding an envelope beneath the pods while shaking the seeds out of the pod.

What Digitalis craves:

Prior to planting seeds, amend the soil with









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compost. Add a general-purpose fertilizer once a month to the Digitalis to promote fuller blooms.

Where to buy Digitalis seeds:

Urban Farmer offers high quality Digitalis seeds that will add a pop of color to any garden.

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



Excelsior Mix Digitalis seeds available at ufseeds.com





